MONDAY
October 2, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Department of Information and Public Relations

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154th
Birth Anniversary of
Mahatma Gandhi Ji

Karnataka Delivers Gandhi Ji's Dreams

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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Inflows into reservoirs increased: Karnataka

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ISRO CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

'Launch was most critical for Chandrayaan's success'

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ALL PRAISE

India-U.S. ties at all-time high, says Jaishankar

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STATE-LED BRUTALITY

Vachathi verdict: a victory for the weak

It reinforces faith in the criminal justice system

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IN GOOD NICK

Sai Sudharsan shines on day 1 of Irani Cup

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Gross GST revenue growth slowed to 10.2% in Sept.

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues slowed to a 27-month low of 10.2% in September, from around 10.8% in the previous two months. However, collections improved 2.3% over August revenues to touch ₹1,62,712 crore.

Revenues from domestic transactions, including services imports, were 14% higher than the tax collected from these sources during September 2022. This is the fourth time that the gross GST kitty has crossed the ₹1.60 lakh crore mark in 2023-24, the Finance Ministry said.

GST inflows from goods imports had recovered from two months of contraction to grow 3% in August, but shrank again in September, albeit by a fraction. While the Finance Ministry did not specify the extent of decline in its statement, back-of-the-envelope calculations show that GST revenues from goods imports dropped 0.11% from last September.

The last time that GST revenues grew at a slower pace was in June 2021, when collections rose a mere 2% amid the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The revenues in that month were based on domestic transactions between June 5 and July 5, since taxpayers were given various relief measures in the form of waivers and reduction in interest on delayed filings for firms with an aggregate turnover up to ₹5 crore.

Last month's GST revenues, based on transactions carried out in August, included Central GST (CGST) collections of ₹29,818 crore, State GST (SGST) of ₹37,657 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) of ₹83,623 crore, which included ₹41,145 crore collected on goods imports.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Revenue check

Goods and Services Tax collections rose to ₹1.63 lakh crore in September 2023, 10.2% higher than September 2022

Oil firms raise ATF and commercial LPG prices

Commercial cooking gas prices rise by ₹209 a cylinder; establishments such as restaurants to shell out more for fuel; in the fourth monthly increase since July, the price of jet fuel hiked by 5%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Oil companies on Sunday raised the price of commercial cooking gas by a sharp ₹209 per 19-kg cylinder. And, in the fourth straight monthly increase since July, the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, was raised by 5%.

The price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder though remains unchanged.

The increase in prices of commercial LPG may add to the expenses of commercial establishments such as hotels and restaurants. A 19-kg cylinder now costs ₹1,731.50 in Delhi, ₹1,684 in Mumbai, and ₹1,898 in Chennai.

The latest increase largely reverses the cut of ₹157.5 a cylinder made on September 1 and the ₹100 cut on August 1.

The ₹200 reduction in the price of domestic cylinder made in August is applicable to beneficiaries enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), meaning a total subsidy of ₹400 for every 14.2-kg LPG cylinder. The Union Cabinet had approved approximately 75 lakh new LPG connections under the Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana in September. The initiative aims to provide these connections over the next three years at an estimated cost of ₹1,650 crore.

The revision in rates of ATF is expected to lead to a rise in airfares ahead of the festive season. Airlines attribute approximately 40% of the ticket price to fuel costs. ATF prices are notified on the first of every month by state-owned fuel retailers. They are revised based on the average international price in the previous month. The ATF price has now increased to ₹1,18,199.17 a kilolitre (kl) in Delhi, ₹1,22,423.92 in Chennai, and ₹1,10,592.31 in Mumbai for domestic airlines. ATF prices had seen their steepest-ever hike of 14.1% in September, an 8.5% hike in August and 1.6% in July. After Sunday's increase, jet fuel prices have gone up by a whopping ₹29,391.08 per kl.

Dearer fuel

Price of jet fuel increased by ₹5,779.84 per kilolitre, or 5.1 per cent, in the national capital to ₹118,199.17 per kl

- The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) increased by 5% in the fourth consecutive hike since July. This price increase is expected to impact airfares as approximately 40% of ticket price is attributed to ATF price
- The rates of 19-kg commercial cooking gas (LPG) were raised by ₹209. This hike may lead to higher expenses for hotels and restaurants
- The price of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder that had been slashed in August has remained unchanged
- The Union Cabinet approved 75 lakh new LPG connections under the Ujjwala scheme in September

NEARBY

Actor rams SUV into couple; woman dead

BENGALURU
A 48-year-old homemaker was killed and her 58-year-old husband critically injured after a SUV driven by Kannada actor Nagabhushan N.S., hit them on Vasanthapura main road on September 30. » Page 3

Deve Gowda and HDK defend alliance with BJP

BENGALURU
At a meeting to sort out differences over the alliance with the BJP, JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda defended the pact. » Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 17

J&J not to enforce patents on TB drug

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The U.S.-based drug maker Johnson & Johnson has announced that it will not enforce patents for Sirturo – its brand name for bedaquiline, which is used in the treatment of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis – in 134 low- and middle-income countries.

The decision follows global pressure on the company against pursuing secondary patents on its breakthrough tuberculosis drug, including the Indian Patent Office's rejection of J&J's secondary patent application for the fumarate salt of bedaquiline.

Bedaquiline is the first drug for tuberculosis, or TB, to be globally approved in over 40 years, and is less toxic and more effective than traditional TB treatments.

"The announcement will finally pave the way for unfettered access to affordable generic versions of bedaquiline for all people living with drug-resistant tuberculosis who need the drug in low- and middle-income countries. This success is a testament to the persistent efforts of TB activists, civil society and also countries prioritising public health over corporations' interests," said the Access Campaign, which is part of Médecins Sans Frontières, a medical humanitarian organisation.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Four held in Manipur for abduction and killing of two Meitei students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday arrested four people, including two women, for their alleged role in the abduction and killing of two Meitei students in Manipur in July. They were arrested from the hill district of Churachandpur.

The suspects were identified as Paominlun Haokip, S. Malsawm Haokip, Lhingneichong Baite, and Tinneilhing Henthang. They were flown to Guwahati from Imphal by a joint team of the CBI and Manipur Police. During the arrest, Ms. Lhingneichong's children aged nine and 11 were also detained along with their mother and flown to Guwahati by the joint team. They were later handed over to the District Child Protection Officer of Assam's Kamrup Metro district, the CBI said.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said his government will ensure maximum punishment for the accused.

However, the Kuki Students Organisation (KSO) said in a statement that two of the suspects, Mr. Malsawm and Mr. Paominlun, are neither cadres of any militant group nor have any involvement in the said murder case. "They are president and general secretary of KSO Leimata Block respectively," it said. The students body said that it supports the call for an indefinite shutdown in Churachandpur from Monday by other tribal bodies such as the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) against the arbitrary arrests.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Members of the youth organisation Arambai Tenggol visit the Ibudhou Pakhangba temple in Imphal, seeking peace. AFP

AFSPA extended in 4 districts of Assam

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

The Assam Police on Sunday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been extended in four districts of the State for six more months.

At the Assam Police Day celebrations here, Director-General of Police Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the "disturbed area" tag, which allows enforcement of the AFSPA, has, however, been withdrawn from four other districts.

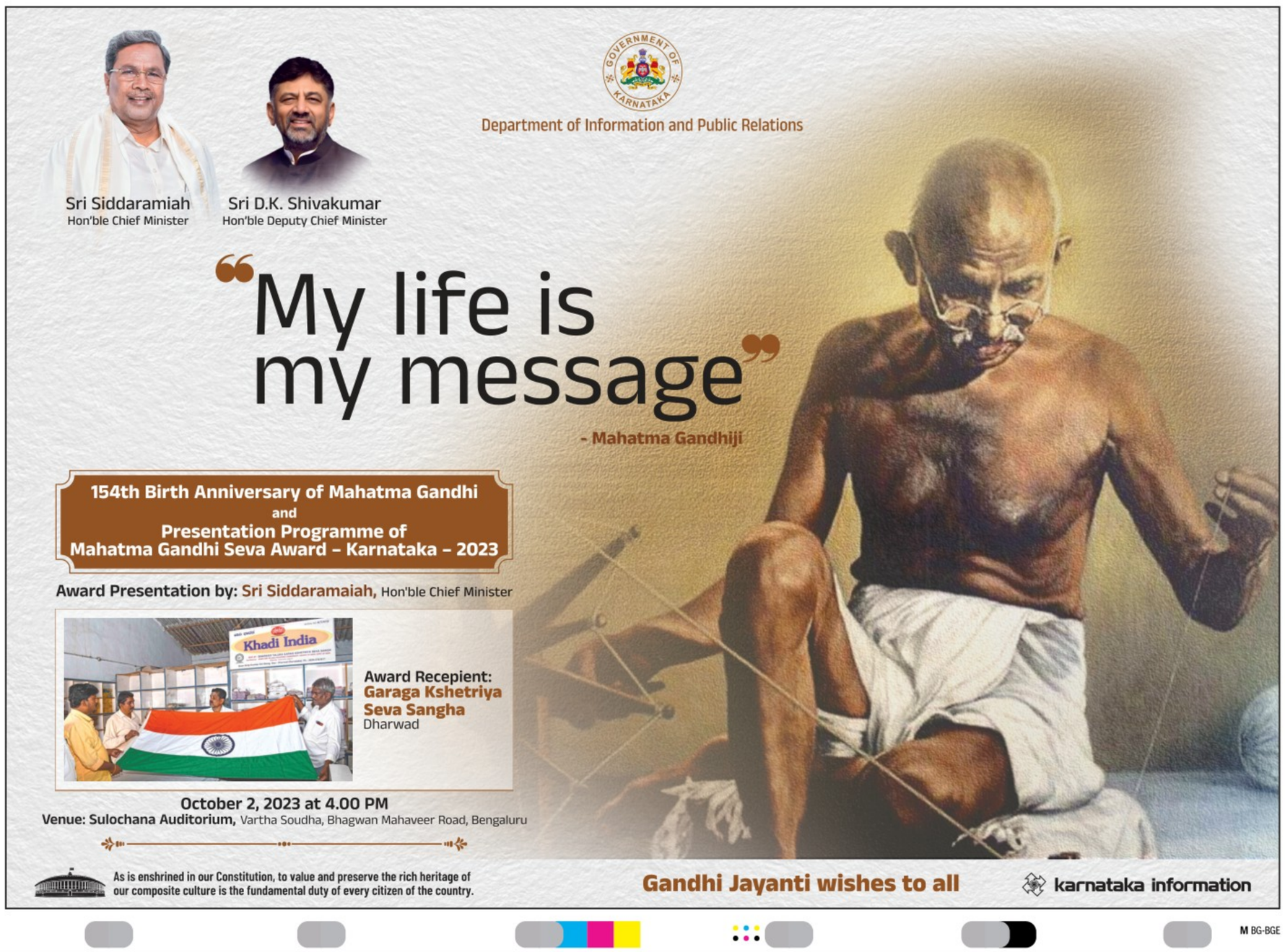
"From today, only four districts in Assam will have AFSPA. These are Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo," Mr. Singh said.

The AFSPA has been withdrawn from Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao with effect from October 1, the DGP added.

The Assam government had last extended the "disturbed area" notification under the AFSPA for another six months with effect from April 1 in these eight districts.

"Assam has reached a peaceful stage after passing through a volatile phase during the last 30 to 40 years," Mr. Singh said.

On September 9, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said that the Cabinet approved recommendation for withdrawal of the "disturbed area" tag from the eight districts.



Ground Survey

As the ICC ODI World Cup is all set to be held in India from October 5 to November 19, an in-depth look at the venues which will host the cricketing extravaganza; today, we feature Kolkata's Eden Gardens

DEBASISH BHADURI

Shayan Acharya

These days, Eden Gardens reeks of paint-thinners, wet cement, and sawdust. The iconic cricketing destination in Kolkata is undergoing a massive revamp ahead of the ODI World Cup. Amid the constant hammering and screeching of the drills as repairs are being taken up on a war footing, Sportstar takes a look at how the historic venue, which will host some big-ticket fixtures like the second semi-final, is shaping up.

As per the International Cricket Council's rule, the stadium needs to be handed over to the tournament organising committee on September 15.

If you are planning to watch a game at Eden Gardens, here's all you need to know:

Capacity: The stadium has a capacity of 65,500. Of these, 63,252 seats are for spectators, while the rest are within the hospitality box. Only 32,000 tickets are available for fans via BookMyShow. The remaining tickets are complimentary passes distributed among clubs, affiliated units, agencies, sponsors, life members, and former India internationals. Each of the 121 clubs – 37 first-division, 57 second division, 8 university, 18 district associations and 1 office club – affiliated with the state association is entitled to a quota of tickets for any international fixture.

"The clubs get their quota of tickets directly from the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), whereas the general public needs to book tickets through the BookMyShow app and then collect physical tickets from the box office," says CAB president, Snehasish Ganguly.

The association intends to collaborate with BookMyShow and establish 10-15 box office counters in various parts of the city and near the stadium to facilitate the collection of physical tickets.

Hospitality boxes: There are 32 corporate hospitality boxes at the stadium, with 16 reserved for the state association and the rest for BCCI and ICC. Each corporate box can fit 25 people and has three dining areas and four restrooms. "Some of these boxes have been acquired by a few corporate groups on a 10-year contract with the CAB," says a state association official.

Additionally, there are six 16-seater boxes in the clubhouse for guests and dignitaries, each with two dining areas and two restrooms.

Practice facilities: Teams will use the Jadavpur University ground in Salt Lake, which is affiliated with the BCCI and has hosted several domestic fixtures, as a practice facility. In case of rain, they can train at the Pankaj Gupta Indoor facility in Eden Gardens.

"Usually, teams prefer training at the main ground, which has all the facilities. But in case any team plans to train at the Jadavpur University ground, we have ensured that they get top-quality facilities there as well," Ganguly says.

Pitches: Four out of the nine wickets made of black cotton soil will be used in the World Cup. Despite the likelihood of the dew factor in October and November, the CAB curator, Sujan Mukherjee, is confident of producing a sporting wicket during that period.

"It's not like only batters will dominate. We are trying to produce wickets that will help bowlers as well. On these surfaces, even bowlers can get some purchase if they put in the effort," says Mukherjee, who has been looking after the Eden surface for years.

The last ODI hosted by Eden Gardens this January resulted in a low-scoring affair, with India winning by four wickets against Sri Lanka. Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj claimed three wickets each.

"For the World Cup, the idea is to prepare a sporting track so that games are not one-sided," Mukherjee adds.

Drainage and outfield: Before IPL 2023, the entire outfield was coated with sand to improve drainage at Eden Gardens, one of the few venues in India where the entire ground is covered during rains.

"Even if it rains, we can resume a game in quick time. No overs will be curtailed since the outfield dries up quickly," Ganguly says.

During World Cup match days, 90 groundsmen will be deputed to prepare the ground.

Entry points: There are 17 gates and 84 turnstiles at the venue. Gate No. 1 is reserved for players and match officials, while the Club House gate is for spectators with access to hospitality boxes. The remaining gates are for general admission.

The stadium is situated in the heart of the city and has excellent public transportation connections. The Esplanade Metro station is just a stone's throw away, and spectators can easily reach the ground by bus or ferry, as Chandpal Ghat (Babughat) is nearby. For those coming from Howrah, the stadium is only a 20-minute ferry ride away, with a general ticket costing Rs 10. On match days, the metro service is expected to run until late hours.

On match days, traffic will be diverted for security reasons. Spectators arriving by bus may need to walk about a kilometre from the Esplanade to the ground. CAB officials state that there are eight to nine spacious parking areas in and around the Maidan where spectators can park their vehicles. "We issue VIP car parking stickers ahead of every game to make sure those coming to watch a game don't face any issues while parking their cars," a CAB official says.

Accessibility and challenges: It's a long walk from the entrance to the stands. Fans may struggle to find their way to the correct blocks and zones.

However, CAB has found a solution by partnering with BookMyShow to appoint volunteers who will assist spectators in locating their respective seat zones. Additionally, indicators will be placed in various areas for easy navigation.

The association has allocated Block B for people with disabilities and will install temporary ramps for wheelchair access. "When fans book their tickets online, they need to inform us whether they would require assistance. Accordingly, we will depute our volunteers to guide them," says Ganguly. However, the spectators need to carry their wheelchairs.

In case of emergency: Round-the-clock ambulance service is available on the stadium premises. Medical kiosks will be set up prior to the tournament. The CAB has partnered with Woodlands Hospital to provide on-site medical services. "We will set up under-gallery medical rooms in the blocks where doctors will be available around the block. There will be at least four to five super-specialty ambulances," the CAB president says.

Dressing rooms: There are separate dressing rooms for the home and away teams, each with a sauna, steam room, three lavatories, and a shower arena.

A lounge for players and coaches is located on the ground floor, and a state-of-the-art gym is available at the Pankaj Gupta Indoor facility.

Washrooms: In the stands, there are 51 washrooms: 10 for men and eight for women in the upper-tier of the B, C, K, and L blocks, and 18 for men and 15 for women under the gallery. Additionally, corporate boxes and the Club House have separate washrooms on each floor, with three to four lavatories in each. Although CAB officials claimed that there are separate toilets for differently-abled individuals, Sportstar did not find any such facilities. However, officials claimed that Block B, reserved for differently-abled spectators, will have several special toilets.

Water: There are 20 water stations and 155 water points across the venue for spectators to access free water. The BCCI will also partner with the tournament's official pouring partner to provide drinking water.

Sustainability: Eden Gardens is located in the Maidan area, which falls under the Indian Army's jurisdiction. As a result, the stadium's lease must be extended every 15 years, making it difficult to make structural changes. While solar panels are not available, the stadium intends to be environmentally friendly by implementing waste management and sorting dry and wet waste into separate zones during tournaments.

Floodlights: The CAB has installed BVP680 with a DMX controller to replace the old floodlights. The four LED floodlights ensure that the lights will be back instantly in case of any issues.

What's new: The CAB plans to do landscaping on the walls with plants and paintings while repairs are ongoing in the concourse area. On match days, light and sound shows will take place during intervals.

Additionally, laser shows will be projected onto the main gate, where pictures of legends from Bengal will be displayed along with live scoreboards. The media centre and press box have been refurbished to accommodate 150 people. Separate boxes are available for the television commentary panel in English and Hindi, as well as a specialised zone for All India Radio.

"The stadium's main electronic scoreboard will have a new look, while a second electronic scoreboard will also be installed," says Ganguly.

Areas that need attention: The Joginder Singh, Dhan Singh Thapa, Pankaj Roy, and BN Dutt Stands lack roofs, leaving spectators exposed to sunlight and cold winds from the Ganges during day-night games in October and November.

Although the renovated press box is equipped with modern facilities, accessing the fifth floor without the elevator on match days will be challenging. Also, there are no toilets on the floor, with the closest ones being located on the fourth floor in the media centre.

THE GIST

The Eden Gardens will host five matches

October 28
Bangladesh vs The Netherlands

October 31
Pakistan vs Bangladesh

November 5
India vs South Africa

November 11
England vs Pakistan

November 16
Second semi-final

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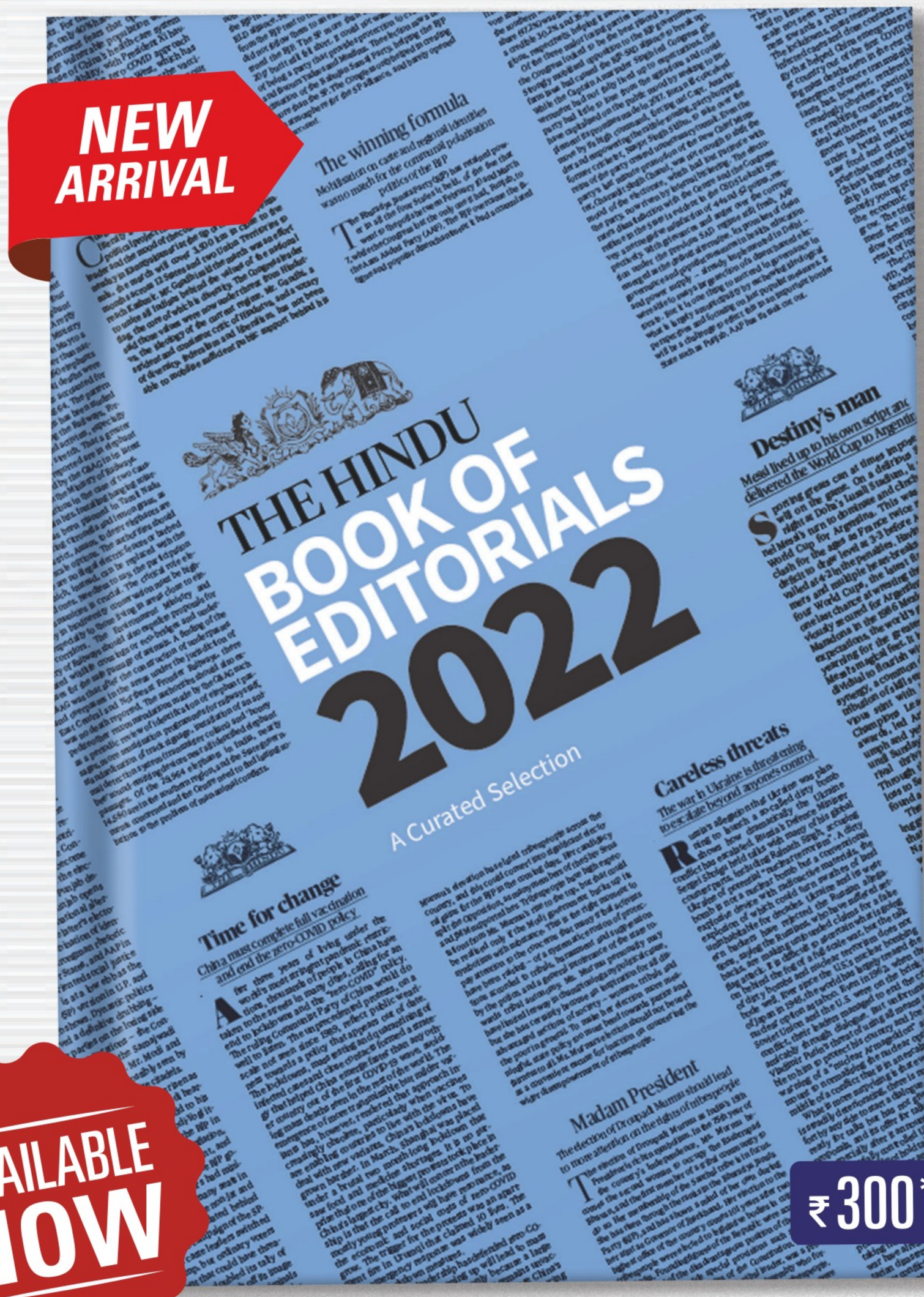

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‘Scanning is the new spinning’ for this Gandhian literature initiative

Gandhi Bhavan has tied up with Servants of Knowledge, a voluntary organisation, to digitise its collection of around 10,000 books in the library. Of these, over 900 books are out in the Internet Archive for anyone to read

GANDHI JAYANTI

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

A few years ago, Gandhi Bhavan, located in Kumara Park East, used to be the spot where Gandhians, freedom fighters, farmers, and literary enthusiasts gathered to hold meetings and discussions to explore the thousands of books present in its library. However, in the last decade, the number of visitors to the 58-year-old institution has drastically gone down, barring events that take place in the auditorium.

With around 10,000 books in its library, a majority of which are Gandhian literature, Gandhi Bhavan has tied up with Servants of Knowledge, a volunteer organisation, to digitise its collection to make it more accessible to readers.

On the second floor of Gandhi Bhavan is a room where a group of people are busy with digital scanners and computers scanning page after page of the large literary collection.

Digitalisation of books written on Mahatma Gandhi is in progress at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Interestingly, ‘Scanning is the new spinning’ is the tagline of Servants of Knowledge.

“The youngsters do not know much about Mahatma Gandhi himself, let alone the literature written by and about him. Thus, we want to put these books out on the internet so that anybody from any corner of the world can access them,” said N. R. Vishukumar, Vice Chairman, Gandhi Bhavan.

Out of the 10,000 books, around 3,000 have already been digitised, while over 900 books are out in the Internet Archive for anyone to read.

“We have digitised 10 lakh pages in the last two months. Along with that, we have also finished the digitisation of around 60 Gandhi Bhavan publications and five years of their magazine - Bapu Prapancha. The magazines are also available in e-book format,” said Omshivaprakash H. L., co-founder of Servants of Knowledge.

For better access

With Optical Character Recognition (OCR), the readers of the digitised books can make use of the text-to-speech format, which would also help visually challenged people gain access to the books. “The text-to-speech format will work in the books’ respective languages. The objective of this effort is to make knowledge accessible to all,” said Carl Malamud, also the co-founder of Servants of Knowledge.

The digitised books also provide readers with an option to search for a particular quote or excerpt and land on the exact page of the exact book. Mr. Malamud said, “If someone has a quote attributed to Gandhi, they can enter it in the search box and see if it was said in an autobiography or in a biography about him. It is not a regular PDF without search options.”

More in the offing

While this is the first step towards digitising Gandhian literature, Gandhi Bhavan and Servants of Knowledge want people to bring to them the Gandhian literature available with them for digitisation to make this collection vaster and richer.

Making khadi cool for the younger generation

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

While addressing students recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged them to promote khadi as a “fashion statement” in colleges and universities. He said khadi fashion shows could be conducted by students and the work of traditional craftspeople promoted at cultural fests in colleges.

However, according to stores selling khadi clothes, the youngsters in Bengaluru are a long way from adopting khadi as their style, mainly due to a lack of awareness about the fabric as well as a lack of varied designs in the catalogue.

“We do not really get any customers in the age group of 20-25 years as they have no idea what khadi is. They only come in if their parents come to buy something. We rarely see students during Independence Day or Republic Day. People who are above 30 years of age come to buy our towels, kerchiefs, and kurtas,” said Vijay, from Khadi India at Sahakar Nagar.

More expensive

Another reason why khadi is not popular amongst youngsters is because it falls in the slightly expensive range. “Khadi clothes do carry a certain amount of elegance in them, but not everybody can afford them. On many online platforms, you can find cotton clothes for almost 50% cheaper prices. I only have three pieces of khadi in my collection, and one among them was a gift from my parents,” said Nishika S., a 25-year-old working professional from South Bengaluru.

Mr. Vijay added that it is difficult for khadi to draw young customers as it carries the tag of being an “old brand.” A salesperson from Khadi Bhandar, in Vidyaranyapura, also said that while the customer base was a mix of young and old, most only asked for short kurtas and long kurtas.

To shed ‘old brand’ tag

To shed this tag, Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Board initiated a training programme with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bengaluru, where over 400 weavers and tailors participated across a span of two-and-a-half years. “If we give them more designs, youngsters will surely buy more Khadi products. In this regard, we had organised a Khadi branding programme with NIFT recently,” said H. R. Rajappa, CEO of the Khadi Board.

“The weavers and tailors who came were trained on sophisticated machines and were taught newer techniques especially when it comes to finishing as people often complain that finishing on khadi clothes is not good. With the help of students and faculty members at NIFT, we could design an entirely new collection,” said Yathindra Lakkanna, professor and director, NIFT Bengaluru.

Fashion show and sale

Under the name of Khadi Mahotsav, a fashion show including the new collection will be showcased, Mr. Lakkanna informed. He also said that between October 2 and October 31, along with the show, an exhibition-cum-sale (organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission) will also be held at HSR Layout.

To familiarise students will khadi, the audience for the fashion show would be students, including those studying in classes 10-12, Mr. Lakkanna said. He also said that various essay and debate competitions have been organised for students about khadi.

READER’S MAIL

On change of ward names

Sir, – In the recently released final report on the delimitation of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike’s 225 wards, the names of many wards, which have been in use for decades, have been changed.

For example, Hanumanthanagar has been renamed as Gavi Gangadhareshwara, Basavanagudi as Dodda Ganapati, and Girinagar as Swami Vivekananda.

Also, the names of a few others have been swapped, such as the old Sri Rama Mandir to Shivanagar and the old Shivanagar to Rajajinagar.

Already, there is a reigning confusion among residents as many of the city's streets and roads have dual names.

The authorities’ rationale for tampering with age-old names that have become ingrained in the daily lives of citizens is incomprehensible.

Every ward name has a historical significance that necessitates its preservation.

Are we unaware of the quantity of time, effort and resources that need to be expended, both by the State and the people, in carrying out and dealing with these name changes?

Where would this lead us if every other party assuming power in the State goes into a renaming spree to reflect its ideology or to placate its support base?

The BBMP must have a rethink on this naming issue.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

After heavy congestion on ORR, traffic police introduce remedial measures

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Following the unusual traffic congestion on September 27 along Bengaluru’s tech corridor, Outer Ring Road (ORR), the Bengaluru Traffic Police and Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) have introduced measures to preempt such a situation.

They involve imposing a ban on heavy vehicular traffic movement from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., starting next week. On Saturday, following a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, members of the ORRCA held discussions with the Joint Commissioner of Police for Traffic M.N. Anucheth to devise strategies for reducing traffic congestion.

The traffic jam on Bengaluru’s Outer Ring Road on September 27.

“Traffic police will discuss with tech park developers on ORR to review the feasibility of enabling shared transport for each major tech park. This will reduce the fleet size as well as increase the occupancy of vehicles used for employee commutation. An advisory will be issued to companies on ORR to stagger their work time so we don’t have a heavy flow of traffic during the traditional peak hours of ORR,” Manas Das, president of the ORRCA, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Manas emphasised the urgent need for attention, upgrades, and ongoing maintenance of 22 key arterial roads connected to the ORR. This initiative aims to alleviate pressure on the ORR, especially during the metro construction phase. “Immediate upgrades are also necessary for service roads, footpaths, and bus stops to enhance their quality,” he added.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Krishna Kumar Gowda, Consultant, ORRCA, said, “We were called by the Deputy Chief Minister, where we presented our framework and recommendations for the ORR. During the meeting, we emphasised the challenges ORR faces and proposed solutions to overcome these issues.” “Mr. Shivakumar took the recommendation seriously, instructing the traffic police to implement it promptly. Additionally, he is expected to inspect the ORR on October 4,” Mr. Krishna Kumar added.

The Hindu earlier reported about the ORRCA framework and recommendations report.

Five injured in freak accident during birthday celebration

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A birthday celebration turned tragic as five persons, including four children, sustained severe burns after a helium balloon they were carrying came in contact with an electric wire and exploded, followed by a fire at a house in Belathur in Kadugodi on Saturday night.

The injured have been identified as Vijay Aditya Kumar, 44, an employee with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, his two sons, Dhyanchand (7), a class I student, and Sohila (3), Ishan Lokesh (2) and Sanjay Shivakumar (8) a class III student.

According to the police, the incident took place at Vijay Kumar’s residence in Belathur, K.R. Puram, at 9.30 p.m. when the kids had assembled to celebrate his daughter’s birthday. While the birthday girl went to drink milk, children were coming down from the terrace with gas-filled balloons in their hands. As one of them came in contact with a live electric wire close to the house, it exploded, following which there was a fire.

The neighbours rushed the injured to a nearby hospital from there shifted to Victoria Hospital, where they are being treated at the burns ward. Sources said all are out of danger. Sanjeev M. Patil, DCP (Whitefield), said they had taken up a case and were probing further.

Long weekend rush causes traffic gridlock near Nandi Hills

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The extended weekend led to a heavy traffic jam near Nandi Hills on Sunday.

Videos capturing a massive traffic jam near Nandi Hills went viral on social media. Shivaputra Imdapur, who, along with his friends, set out early in the morning to catch the sunrise, found himself stuck below the hills for nearly three hours.

Recounting the experience to *The Hindu*, Mr. Imdapur said they began their journey from Banashankari at 5.30 a.m. and arrived at the foothills around 6.30 a.m. However, they remained stranded until 8 a.m., missing the sunrise view entirely. “The lack of traffic police or any arrangements to manage the overwhelming crowd and control the traffic flow is the reason for the traffic snarls,” he added.

The unexpected influx of visitors to the hills was linked to the extended weekend, which included the government holiday for Gandhi Jayanti, as well as an earlier holiday due to a bandh and Id-e-Milad-un-Nabi.

An official from the tourist department at Nandi Hills said, “The five-day weekend significantly contributed to the traffic congestion towards Nandi Hills. Typically, during long weekends, we witness a surge in visitors who come to witness the sunrise. We had made adequate arrangements, including parking facilities. However, the large crowds on both Saturday and Sunday overwhelmed our preparations.”

More than 2,000 individuals undertake cleanliness drive in and around Ulsoor lake

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As a part of the nationwide ‘Swachhta Hi Sewa’ Abhiyaan, over 2,000 individuals comprising Army personnel, their families, children, NCC students, BBMP personnel, and conservancy staff conducted a cleanliness drive in and around Ulsoor lake under the aegis of the Headquarters Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area on Sunday.

In line with the theme of Garbage Free India, the volunteers, apart from cleaning the surrounding areas and dump sites, also carried out deweeding and restoration of the lake bank.

Volunteers along with BBMP workers cleaning a black spot on Mysuru Road during the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ campaign ahead of Gandhi Jayanti, in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

“Aimed at cleaning up the area and spreading awareness among the locals on the importance of Swachta, the drive reinforced the importance of community engagement and people participation in such national initiatives,” the Ministry of Defence said.

Speaking on the occasion, Major General Ravi Murugan, GOC Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area, applauded the efforts of the volunteers and stressed the importance of maintaining the public places. He exhorted the people to come up and join the initiative to keep the environment clean.

New guidance value comes into effect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The new guidance value, which is on an average 30-40% higher than before but in some cases even double, came into effect in the State on Sunday.

With the revision of guidance value, the State government aims to shore up revenue collection.

The Budget presented by Siddaramaiah in July hiked the target for the Department of Stamps and Registration to ₹25,000 crore from ₹19,000 crore in the February Budget presented by former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. After the draft of the revised guidance value was announced, sub-registrar offices across the State saw a huge rush.

On September 27, the department collected ₹312 crore on a single day, the highest one-day collection in the State’s history. During these eight days alone, the department collected nearly ₹1,000 crore. Till September 30, the department collected ₹9,162 crore this fiscal year.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 02		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:09
RISE	20:32	SET 08:43
TUESDAY, OCT. 03		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:08
RISE	21:22	SET 09:42
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 04		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:08
RISE	22:13	SET 10:40

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	31	23
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

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THE HINDU
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E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated October 2, we take you through M. N. Jayakumar’s recent work Encounters in the Wild 2.0, a solo exhibition celebrating global wildlife. Jayakumar talks about his obsession with wildlife and his journey to becoming a photographer.

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Clues to ancient Kosi superflood say it could happen again today

Geologists have found evidence of an extreme monsoon event and hyperconcentrated flows 11,000 years ago in the Kosi river, which can cause floods and avulsion. Climate change could increase the odds of such events, necessitating disaster response plans that are ready for such outcomes

Sayantan Datta

At Rajiv Sinha's laboratory in IIT Kanpur lie soil, sand, and rocks drilled out from across thousands of metres under the Karnali, Ganga, and Kosi rivers. Each sample, called a "sedimentary core" is held in a container 7.6 cm wide; together, they create snapshots of the rivers' ancient history.

Every centimetre of these cores reveals the size and kind of sediment that the rivers were carrying at a point in time. The cores thus show how the composition of these sediments changed over time.

New study

These cores have proved crucial to Prof. Sinha and a team of geologists from the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, who are reconstructing river floods in the Gangetic plain between 23 and 5 million years ago, in the Miocene era.

Based on these studies, the researchers have reported that climate-change-related and seismic events ravaging the planet today could create super-floods that could be catastrophic for people in the Gangetic plain, in a paper published in the journal *Communications Earth and Environment* on August 23.

The findings signal that we need to urgently update India's disaster management strategy to account for what Prof. Sinha calls "cascading hazards": natural disasters that are triggered by other disasters.

Delayed transition

The study began with a peculiar observation.

As rivers flow from their origins in the mountains to the plains, they carry rocks, gravel, and sand. The heavier particles - rocks and gravel - settle down earlier in the river's trajectory whereas the lighter particles settle later. The part of the river's path where there is a gradual transition from heavier to lighter particles on the riverbed is called the gravel-sand transition.

With the river Ganga, for example, Prof. Sinha said that larger particles are restricted to the areas around Haridwar and Rishikesh, in Uttarakhand.

In normal circumstances, large particles should not be usually found in downstream areas.

But in a 2014 study, Prof. Sinha and colleagues reported that, around 11,000 years ago, in the Holocene era, there was coarse gravel in the Kosi river some 30-40 km downstream of the current gravel-sand transition. His team inferred this from sedimentary cores.

A road is washed away by an overflowing Kosi river in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, on June 27, 2011. PTI

At the Mohand anticline

The team's investigation of this anomaly - such large particles downstream of the current transition spot - took the team to the Mohand anticline in Uttarakhand, around 45 km southwest of Dehradun.

An anticline is a fold in a sedimentary rock that bulges outwards. Older layers of sediments are found towards the centre and the younger ones are located towards the exterior.

At the Mohand anticline, the team documented all the layers and recorded the size and type of the sediments in each. The researchers estimated when each sediment layer was deposited based on how deep it was. By combining this data with that obtained from the drilled cores, they could compute the rivers' flow at different times.

An ancient event

That's how they landed at one potential reason the coarse gravel in the Kosi was so far away from the modern gravel-sand transition: an "extreme monsoon event" leading to a flood that occurs every 200-1,000 years.

This extreme event is expected to have occurred along with a complementary cause called hyperconcentrated flows. Hyperconcentrated flows occur when some event - a trigger, such as a landslide or a glacial lake outburst - causes the river to carry more sediments than usual. In such conditions, "high concentrations of sediments are distributed through the water column," according to the paper.

Hyperconcentrated flows can change the way rivers flow, so they often have devastating consequences.

> Researchers report that climate-change-related and seismic events ravaging the planet today could create super-floods that could devastate the Gangetic plain

"A major landslide combined with a heavy monsoon can generate hyperconcentrated flows, which can actually move very large particles further downstream," Prof. Sinha said. As a result, the river could be clogged, the water level could rise to dangerous levels, and cause a flood.

Hyperconcentrated flows can also change the course of the river in a process called avulsion, forcing thousands of people to move.

When the Kosi river avulsed in 2008, it deposited around 2 metres of sediment in the surrounding land, inundated and destroyed crops, left the soil infertile, and created conditions conducive to the spread of disease.

Old threat, new risk

In early 2021, a large rock and ice avalanche triggered a disastrous flood in Chamoli district, leaving more than 200 people dead or missing. According to Prof. Sinha, the incident, like several others in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in 2023, is a reminder of how areas prone to landslides and heavy monsoons are especially vulnerable to hyperconcentrated flows.

The odds of an extreme monsoon event in the same regions are expected to increase due to climate change. According to a 2021 study in western Nepal, the chance could increase by as much as 60%. More extreme rains could also mean more landslides, which in turn could mean hyperconcentrated flows leading floods downstream in the plains.

'Cascading hazards'

Prof. Sinha and his colleagues wrote in their paper that accounting for hyperconcentrated flows in "future disaster risk management strategies remains an important and major challenge". This is because, he added, India's disaster management strategy relies largely on a "compartmentalised" understanding of disasters, where how one disaster leads to the other is not taken into consideration.

"If we keep looking at these hazards in an isolated and compartmentalised way, we will never be able to understand the entire cascading effect of a disaster," he said. Instead, we need an "integrated disaster management approach" where the relationship between instances of earthquakes, landslides, and floods - along with the individual incidents themselves - is used to frame risk-mitigation plans.

(Sayantan Datta (they/them) are a queer-trans freelance science writer, communicator and journalist. They are currently a faculty member at Krea University and tweet at @queersprings.)

THE GIST

As rivers flow from mountains to the plains, they carry rocks, gravel, and sand. Heavier particles – rocks and gravel – settle earlier in the river's trajectory whereas lighter particles settle later. The part of the river's path where there is a transition from heavier to lighter particles on the riverbed is called gravel-sand transition

With the Ganga larger particles are restricted to areas around Haridwar and Rishikesh, in Uttarakhand. Large particles should not be usually found downstream. But in a 2014 study it was found that, around 11,000 years ago, in the Holocene era, there was coarse gravel in the Kosi river some 30-40 km downstream of the current gravel-sand transition

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BIG SHOT

Mosquitoes lay eggs inside the World Mosquito Program's factory in Medellin, Colombia. Scientists are breeding the mosquitoes to carry the bacteria *Wolbachia,* which interrupts the transmission of dengue. Disarming disease-transmitting mosquitoes in this way is part of a new wave of solutions in the world's battle against malaria, dengue, and yellow fever, among other diseases. AP

WHAT IS IT?

Kármán Line: Where space begins

Arkatapa Basu

Boundaries play an important role in science because they help differentiate and define things that might otherwise blend together. One such boundary is the Kármán Line. Located at 100 km above sea level, it is an imaginary line that demarcates the earth's atmosphere from space. Though not all scientists and spacefarers accept it, a majority of countries and space organisations recognise this boundary between earthsky and space. It was established in the 1960s by a record-keeping body called Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI). Anyone individual who crosses this line qualifies as an astronaut.

However, nature seldom adheres to human-made boundaries. Crossing the Kármán Line physically doesn't mean much. Within a short distance on either side of the line, there is no significant difference in the pressure or the composition of air. The earth's gravity continues to exert its pull here. Even the earth's atmosphere doesn't end here. Why then do we need the Kármán Line?

The Kármán Line was established to regulate airspace. It marks, roughly, the altitude beyond which a traditional aircraft can't fly. Any aircraft flying beyond it needs a propulsion system to pull away from the earth's tug. It also acts as a legal reference that separates airspace that a country can claim to own from space itself, which is governed like international waters.

Any individual who crosses theKármán Line qualifies as an astronaut. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

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Actor rams SUV into couple; woman dead

Husband's condition critical; couple was on their evening walk when the accident occurred

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 48-year-old homemaker was killed and her 58-year-old husband critically injured after a speeding SUV driven by Kannada film actor Nagabhushan N.S., hit them on Vasanthapura main road on the night of September 30 at around 9.45 p.m.

The couple were on their evening walk when the accident happened. The actor was driving his car from Uttarahalli towards Konanakunte Cross. He lost control of the vehicle and knocked down the couple before crashing into an electric pole.

The severely injured Prema and Krishna B. were rushed to a private hospital.

While Prema succumbed to injuries on the way to the hospital, her husband Krishna is being treated in the intensive care unit. He continues to be critical.

The Kumaraswamy Layout traffic police rushed to the spot, arrested the actor, and seized the car for further investigation. Sources said while an alcometer test cleared him, police had sent his blood samples for test, the results of which are awaited.

Sources said the actor claimed he was trying to avoid hitting a stray calf on the road and took a sharp turn, hitting the couple. However, senior officials said though there was a calf nearby, it was away and not in the line of the SUV.

The car belonging to actor Nagabhushan that was involved in the accident.

The victims Prema and Krishna B.

Nagabhushan N.S.

"Prima facie, it looks like he was driving in a rash and negligent manner and was speeding. There was a speed breaker at the junction, but since he was speeding, he seemed to have lost control of the vehicle," said Shivaprakash Devaraju, DCP (Traffic - South). He has been booked under Section 279 (rash and negligent driving endangering human life) and 304A (causing death due to negligence) of the Indian Penal Code. The actor was released on station bail after he executed a surety bond.

Mr. Nagabhushan is known for his recent comic roles in Kannada films.

He made his debut with the film *Badmaash* in 2016, after a short, successful stint on YouTube with a comedy channel Karnataka Entertainment Board. Since then, he has emerged as one of the leading comedy actors in films. He started in a lead role in the film Ikkat, which was a success.

He also wrote and starred in a Kannada-Telugu web-series *Honeymoon*.

REMEMBERING
Arutchelvar Dr. N. Mahalingam

21 March 1923 - 02 October 2014

THE LEGEND. THE LEGACY.

"India's future is bright. One must always be confident about the country's future. I am a happy witness to the power of youth rising. That makes me optimistic about the future of our great nation."

- Dr. N. Mahalingam,
from the Book, "Maha Mantras"

"Thiru Mahalingam is deeply rooted in the spiritual legacy of Vallalar, principles of Ahimsa espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and the path of humaneness championed by poet Subramania Bharathiyar. It is certain that Thiru Mahalingam's words and deeds shall manifest these doctrines in the world."

– Hon'ble Justice M.M. Ismail, Former Chief Justice, Madras High Court,
from the Book, "Arutkaviyum Mahakaviyum" - 1987

SAKTHI
GROUP

ABT Limited | ABT Industries Limited | NIA Transports | Sakthi Sugars Limited | Sakthi Finance Limited
Sakthi Soyas Limited | Sri Chamundeswari Sugars Limited | Sakthi Auto Components Limited
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ARC Retreading Company (P) Limited | Mahalingam Mariammal Manivizha Charitable Trust Institutions
Dr. Mahalingam College of Engineering & Technology | Nachimuthu Polytechnic College | NGM College
Dr. Mahalingam Paramedical College | Kumaraguru College of Technology | Sakthi Polytechnic College
Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture | Sakthi Institute of Information and Management Studies
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Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Sri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka

2022 - 2023

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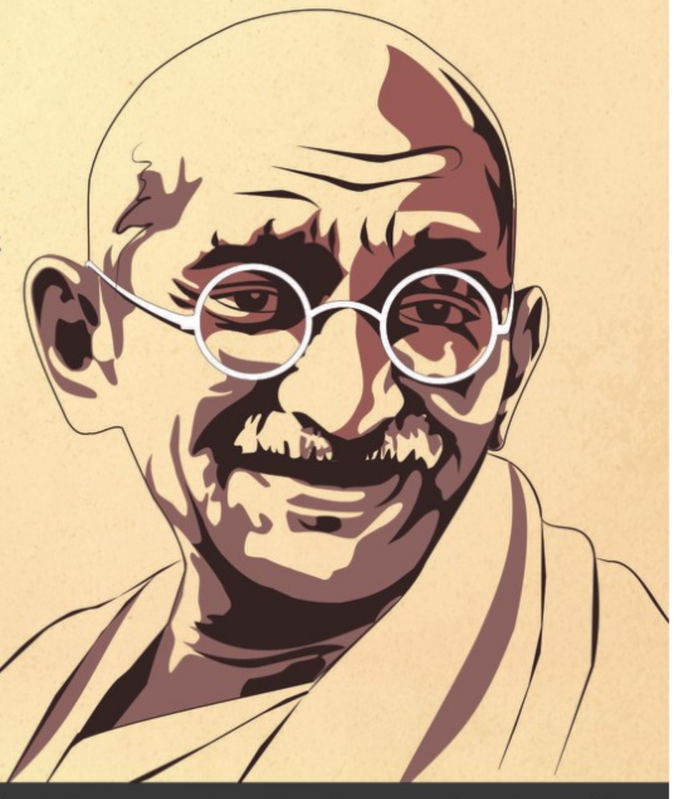

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of passenger vehicles despatched in India last month

3.63 in lakh. Passenger vehicle wholesales rose to record levels in September as automakers despatched stocks in order to cater to the robust demand in the ongoing festive season. PTI

Decrease in number of students in Delhi government schools

30,399 The number of students in government schools in Delhi decreased from 17.89 lakh in the academic year 2021-22 to 17.58 lakh in 2022-23. PTI

The number of insolvency cases resolved in this fiscal

300 The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Chairperson Ravi Mital said the number of resolutions rose 80% to 180 in the last financial year and is likely to touch 300 this year. PTI

The number of dengue cases in Bihar in September

6,146 Bihar is witnessing an alarming rise in dengue cases, with over 6,000 cases reported in September, the highest for the month in the last five years. PTI

Funds allocated for the aspirational blocks programme in FY24

100 in ₹ crore. The government allocation for the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), aims to improve governance at the block level. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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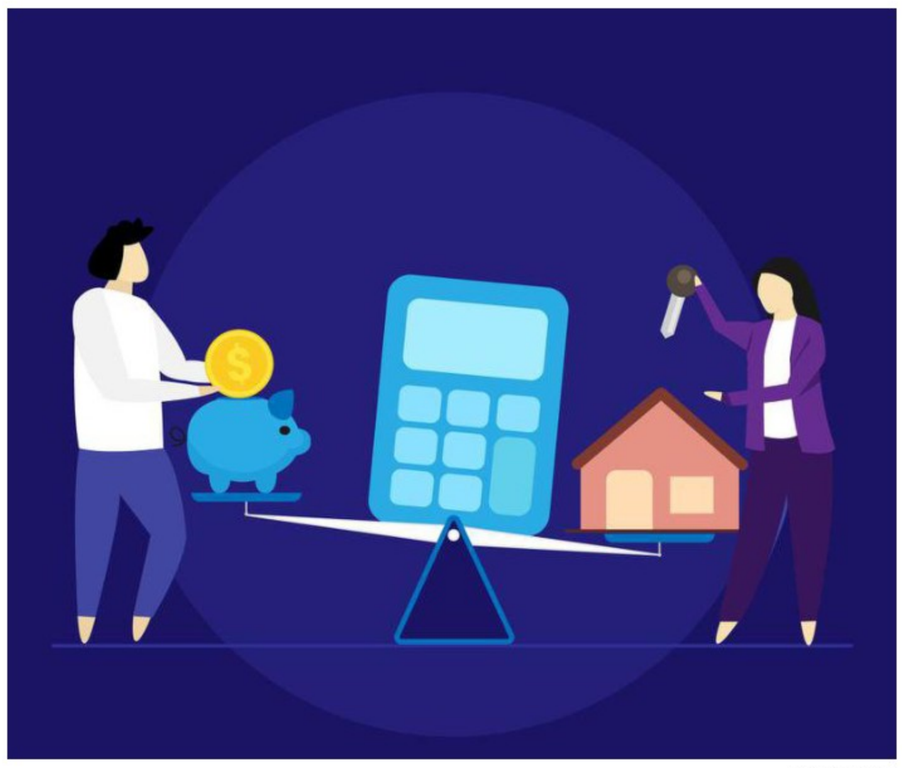
Have household savings reduced?

Financial liabilities of households have risen faster than their assets, an indication of rising indebtedness. The government has, however, countered these claims. The Finance Ministry has explained that financial savings are reducing because households have been taking advantage of low interest rates to invest in more physical assets

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

The release of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monthly Bulletin in September revealed that households' net financial savings had fallen to 5.1% from 11.5% in 2020-21. Financial liabilities of households rose faster than their assets, with many writers highlighting this trend as an indication of rising indebtedness and increasing distress. The government, however, countered these claims. The Finance Ministry explained that while household financial savings may be reducing, it did not imply total savings were falling, since households took advantage of low interest rates after the pandemic to invest in assets such as vehicles, education and homes. These are two contrasting narratives, one of pessimism and distress, the other of optimism. What does data tell us about the state of the economy?



GETTY IMAGES

The optimistic claim

There is evidence to support the government's narrative of a shift from financial to physical assets. Post-COVID, there has been an increase in household construction. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the construction sector was the fastest growing sector, growing at nearly 15% (when measured in 2011-12 prices), and 10% between 2021-22 and 2022-23. Only the trade, hotels, transport and communications sector grew faster in the latter period. Housing loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) grew at double-digit rates in all years between 2018-19 and 2022-23, with loans from housing finance companies growing almost 17 times between 2019-20 and 2022-23.

Liabilities in other non-financial assets have also increased. Education and vehicle loans from SCBs increased significantly between 2021-22 and 2022-23, growing at 17% and around 25% respectively. This has led to significant changes in the composition of household savings. The share of physical assets – excluding gold and silver – is almost 60% of households' total net savings, with the share of financial savings reducing from 39.6% in 2017-18 to 38.77% in 2021-22. That is, by taking advantage of the low interest rates set by the RBI in the wake of the pandemic, households may have increased their liabilities not to fuel consumption, but to purchase non-financial assets such as houses.

The pessimistic claim

Other evidence points to a slightly different picture. The fall in household net financial savings was driven largely by a rise in liabilities. Gross financial assets declined marginally as a share of GDP between 2021-22 and 2022-23 from 11.1% to 10.9%. Gross liabilities, remaining steady at roughly 3.8% of GDP between 2019-20 and 2021-22, increased to 5.8% of GDP in 2022-23. This rise in liabilities would not imply households have reduced savings if increasing loans financed the construction and purchase of homes. However, there is evidence to the contrary. While loans for housing, education and vehicles have no doubt increased, other components of personal loans have risen even faster. The share of housing loans in total non-food personal loans from SCBs – including priority sector lending – has fallen from 51.08% in 2018-19 to 47.4% in 2022-23. The share of education loans has fallen from 3.32% to 2.37%, while vehicle loans have remained constant at around 12%.

In contrast, outstanding credit card loans increased from 3.8% to 4.7% over this period, with loans against gold jewellery rising from 1.07% to 2.16%, and the category of "Other Personal Loans" – which excludes loans for purchasing consumer durables – showing the largest rise from 24% to 27.42%. While one cannot say what these loans are being used for, these categories of loans do not necessarily indicate that they are being used solely for asset creation. Households may be taking on credit card debt and taking loans against jewellery to finance consumption. The biggest contributor to the large rise in financial liabilities between 2021-22 and 2022-23 has been loans from non-banking institutions, which grew by almost ten times in just the last year, contributing to 32.1% of the total rise in financial liabilities over this period.

The road ahead

An examination of the data reveals that even though housing loans increased, other forms of loans which might possibly be used for consumption increased even faster. But does this imply distress? It is difficult to say from just one year's data, for we do not know if this is a trend or a one-time event. One could say that households are borrowing to maintain consumption in the face of income loss after COVID and high inflation. On the other hand, it could also be that pent-up demand during the pandemic is being realised in the form of debt-financed consumption, with households optimistic about future repayment.

However, even if the optimistic narrative is true, there are grounds for concern. The U.S. Federal Reserve's commitment to maintaining higher interest rates to combat inflation would have a knock-on effect on interest rates around the world. Rising interest rates in India would cause significant stresses for households to meet increasing liabilities. If households have invested in real estate, rising interest rates would curtail their consumption spending and reduce aggregate demand in the economy. If, however, the narrative of distress borrowing is true, households would be subjected to further stress if interest rates rise. Policy must be observant of the myriad pitfalls facing the Indian economy.

Rahul Menon is Associate Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University

THE GIST

- The release of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monthly Bulletin in September revealed that households' net financial savings had fallen to 5.1% from 11.5% in 2020-21.
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- While loans for housing, education and vehicles have no doubt increased, other components of personal loans have risen even faster. The share of housing loans in total non-food personal loans from SCBs has fallen from 51.08% in 2018-19 to 47.4% in 2022-23.

The largest climate action lawsuit against 32 countries

How have the countries responded? Are European nations lagging behind in their climate emission goals? Why do bodies like the UNICEF dub the climate crisis as a 'child rights' crisis?

Saumya Kalia

The story so far:

September 27 marked the beginning of a historic legal battle in the climate action movement. Six young people from Portugal, aged 11 to 24, are suing 32 European governments (including the U.K., Russia and Turkey) at the European Court of Human Rights in France's Strasbourg. The plaintiffs began arguing before 17 judges that their governments have failed to take sufficient action against the climate crisis, thus violating their human rights and discriminating against young people globally.

What is the lawsuit?

Duarte Agostinho and Others versus Portugal and Others was filed in September 2020, in the aftermath of the wildfires that consumed Portugal's Leiria in 2017. Over 60 people died, and 20,000 hectares of forests were lost. The recent spate of heatwaves and fires across Greece, Canada and other parts of Europe served as reminders that every increment beyond the 1.5°C temperature threshold would be catastrophic, intensifying "multiple and concurrent hazards," as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states in its report.

The Portuguese youths claim that European nations have faltered in their climate emission goals, blowing past their global carbon budgets consistent with the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming under 1.5°C. The nations have thus violated people's fundamental rights protected under the European Convention on Human Rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to privacy and family life and the right to be free from discrimination.

"These European governments are failing to protect us... Our ability to do anything, to live our lives, is becoming restricted. The climate crisis is affecting our physical health and our mental health; how could you not be scared?" said André dos Santos Oliveira, 15, to a media house. Since the 32 countries contributed to climate catastrophes and jeopardised the future of young people, it falls upon the nations to rapidly escalate their emissions reductions and aim higher in curtailing domestic emissions, in line with what scientific evidence shows, the lawsuit argues. Other measures include cutting the production of fossil fuels and cleaning up global supply chains.

The European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (ESABCC), a body which provides scientific advice to EU countries, said countries will have to target an emissions reduction of 75% below 1990 levels (as opposed to the EU's current 55%). "Under some of these principles, the EU has already exhausted its fair share of the global emissions budget," their report states, echoing the plaintiffs' claim that European countries have overstated their carbon budget claims. The EU at present is the sixth largest emitter with 7.2 tonnes of CO2 per capita, while the world averages 6.3 tonnes per capita.

UNICEF has dubbed the climate crisis as a "child rights crisis", as unhindered carbon emissions and extreme weather threaten access to education, health, nutrition and the future. Research concurs – air pollution is already linked to poor birth outcomes and increased risk of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Heat waves are triggering mental health issues.

How have governments responded?

It comes down to cause and effect: countries so far have rejected any relationship between climate change and its impact on human health. For instance, Greece, in its submissions, maintained that the effects of climate change "do not seem to directly affect human life or human health." This is even as the country witnessed devastating wildfires earlier this year and torrential rain and flooding in September.

The Portuguese and Irish governments have dismissed these concerns as 'future fears', arguing that there is no evidence to show climate change poses an immediate risk to their lives. According to *Reuters*, a ruling in the case is expected in the first half of 2024.

THE GIST

- Six young people from Portugal, aged 11 to 24, are suing 32 European governments (including the U.K., Russia and Turkey) at the European Court of Human Rights in France's Strasbourg.
- The Portuguese youths claim that European nations have faltered in their climate emission goals, blowing past their global carbon budgets consistent with the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming under 1.5°C.
- Countries so far have rejected any relationship between climate change and its impact on human health.

INBRIEF

Muniyappa to launch scheme to develop model schools

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and Bengaluru Rural in charge K.H. Muniyappa will inaugurate a project to set up model rural schools on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on Monday at Vishwanathapura, Devanahalli.

According to a release from the Minister's office, the schools envisaged in rural areas will be comparable to urban schools. To improve the standards in rural schools in general, model schools are being established. Under the CSR Companies Act, 2013, it is mandatory for companies to set aside a certain amount for CSR activities.

Biography of S.M. Krishna released in Bengaluru

Nelada Siri, a biography of former Chief Minister and veteran leader S.M. Krishna, was released in Bengaluru on Sunday. The book authored by N. Jagadish Koppa was released by writer Narahalli Balasubramanya. Mr. Krishna, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and former Minister K. Sudhakar were present on the occasion.

National award for archaeologist Bajpai

Shivakant Bajpai, who served as the Superintending Archaeologist of ASI Bengaluru circle, was conferred the Dr. Vishnu Sridhar Wakankar National Award for 2021-22.

The award, which includes a citation, a plaque and cash, was conferred recently by the Madhya Pradesh government in recognition of his works in archaeology and conservation for the last 25 years. During his posting in Bengaluru circle, he had taken up excavation works at Halebid. Currently, he is posted as the Superintending Archaeologist in the Jabalpur circle of ASI.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Shivakumar vs. former Dy. CM

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is mulling ordering a probe into alleged irregularities in the Smart City project in Shivamogga city. This comes after being called a "water thief" for releasing the Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu and being termed "unfit for the Dy. CM post" by BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa. Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Eshwarappa, RDPR Minister in the previous regime, had a verbal duel in February, 2022, in the Legislative Assembly on the latter's remark that the saffron flag (bhagwa dwaja) could replace the tricolour at the Red Fort in future. While Mr. Shivakumar called Mr. Eshwarappa "anti-national" for his remark on the national flag, the BJP leader said the Congress leader had "gone to jail for looting the country's assets." Now, recalling the BJP leader's remarks in the Assembly, the KPCC chief said he had already made a "settlement" against all those who have crossed him. "Now where is Mr. Eshwarappa and where am I? Let Mr. Eshwarappa take rest now," Mr. Shivakumar said. Whether the Dy. CM will indeed order a probe into the over ₹900-crore works in Smart City projects to put Mr. Eshwarappa in a spot is now the moot question.

Foot in the mouth

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra *(in picture)* was caught on the wrong foot, after a video purportedly showed him making a claim that the distribution of cookers and iron boxes in Varuna Assembly constituency helped his father win the Assembly elections.

The video clip, which was shared widely on electronic media channels, gave Mr. Siddaramaiah's rivals in the BJP and the JD(S) a perfect handle to target the Chief Minister.

Mr. Yathindra soon appeared before television channels to clarify that the State president of the Madiwala Sangha Nanjappa distributed the cookers and iron boxes out of his own funds not only in Varuna constituency, but also in other constituencies like Haveri, Devanahalli, and Yadgir also.

Importantly, Mr. Yathindra sought to make it clear that the function to distribute cookers and iron boxes was held on January 27, way before the model code of conduct for the Assembly elections kicked in.

While claiming that a wrong impression had been conveyed in the media about his statement by clipping it in a certain way, Mr. Yathindra also admitted that he may not have articulated his thoughts properly. Clearly, Mr. Yathindra has a lot to learn in a time and age when the eye of the camera is just everywhere.

Nagesh Prabhu
Laiqh A. Khan

Deve Gowda and HDK defend alliance with BJP, seek leaders' support

Pact is in the interest of Karnataka and not for personal gains, declares Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At a meeting convened to sort out differences over their party's alliance with the BJP, former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on Sunday defended the alliance. They assured the party workers and leaders that the tie-up is aimed at resolving the State's burning issues and not for their personal gains.

Held at Mr. Kumaraswamy's farmhouse in Bidadi, the meeting was attended by JD(S) MLAs, former MLAs, former Ministers, district presidents, and other senior leaders.

While JD(S) State president C.M. Ibrahim, who is upset with Mr. Kumaraswamy for the tie-up, stayed away from the meeting, several Muslim leaders welcomed the move and extended their support.

Addressing the workers, Mr. Kumaraswamy said all efforts would be made to resolve the State's issues in the next five years. "If that does not happen, I will retire from politics," he said.

"This alliance is not for my personal gains. It is in the interest of the State. We will work to resolve the State's issues under the guidance of Mr. Deve Gowda and do all that needs to be done to safeguard our State's interests," he said.

JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda and former Chief Minster H.D. Kumaraswamy and others lighting a lamp during a meeting with JD(S) leaders and workers at Bidadi, near Bengaluru, on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Asserting that he had to take some tough decisions as people believed the Congress' "false" promises and brought it to power, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the alliance will not affect the political future of any party members. "We are not against minorities and will ensure our ideologies remain the same," he said.

In an emotional address, Mr. Deve Gowda said: "I have complete belief in you all (party workers). A wise decision has been taken in the party's interest and I seek your support. A political revolution will take place. I have met the Union Home Minister and held mature deliberations regarding the alliance with him. There should be no doubts about the existence of our party."

Coming down heavily on Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Mr. Deve Gowda said none can destroy or weaken the regional party. "Mr. Shivakumar, you have announced that you will make JD(S) a zero and not allow any capable leader to remain in the party. Your dream can never become a reality," he added.

Oath of loyalty

Chairman of the JD(S) core committee G.T. Deve Gowda, who administered an oath to the leaders to remain loyal to the party, said the alliance was a wise decision in the interest of the State. "Let us all work to strengthen the regional party as our existence depends on the party's existence," he said.

Former Minister Bandeppa Kashampur, MLA Samrudhi Manjunath, and former MLAs Guru Patil and Raja Venkatappa Naik seconded him.

No injustice to minorities

JD(S) MLA B.M. Farooq, who asserted that the party had not done any injustice to minorities, said the party has always stood for the community. "I will remain loyal to the party irrespective of who stays or quits. Did our community face any problem during the previous 20-month JD (S)-BJP coalition tenure? Mr. Kumarswamy has assured us that the party's ideologies will not change owing to the alliance," Mr. Farooq said.

Some Muslim workers, who welcomed the alliance, said the party should expel those who revolt against its decision.

Vice-president of the party's minority wing Imtiaz Rafiq said the community members will remain loyal. "Minority community members will not quit the party. Instead of dividing the minority community, let the Congress fulfill the promises to the people," he said.

JD(S) Kerala unit makes its anti-NDA stance clear to national party

Hiran Unnikrishnan
PATHANAMTHITTA

Hard on the heels of its decision to join hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Janata Dal (S) is now teetering on the edge of a vertical split with the party's Kerala unit giving a formal rebuke to the national leadership.

A delegation led by JD(S) State president Mathew T. Thomas, MLA, and Minister K. Krishnankutty on Sunday conveyed the State unit's decision not to align with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) directly to party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda. The abrupt declaration of support to the NDA by the JD (S) national leadership had caught its Kerala unit, a constituent of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, in a bind.

Meeting on Oct. 7

"To chart out the future course of action, a meeting of the JD(S) executive committee will be convened in Kochi on October 7," Mr. Thomas said over phone from Bengaluru. The decision to stay away from the NDA, according to him, is consistent with the decisions made by the party plenum as well as its national executive committee to work alongside parties other than the BJP and the Congress.

The latest development comes at the instance of the CPI(M), which insisted that the JD(S) leadership to clarify its stance on the BJP alliance. The United Democratic Front (UDF) too had criticised the 'ambiguous position' of the JD(S) State unit after its party's NDA entry.

A socialist union

The development, meanwhile, has also raised the spectre of yet another realignment of forces within the broad platform of socialist parties after the proposed merger of the Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) later next week. The LJD had earlier gone back on its decision to merge with the JD(S) in view of H.D. Kumaraswamy continuously making overtures towards the BJP with an intention to form the government in Karnataka.

The socialist movement in Kerala is counting on the JD(S) State unit to merge with the RJD after breaking up with the national unit and to add to its collective bargaining strength. "Although the proposed merger between LJD and JD(S) did not take place, there is every likelihood of the prospective breakaway faction now joining the broader socialist platform. It will help the socialist movement to evolve as a formidable, third force in Kerala," observed Varghese George, LJD national general secretary.

Postings: Siddaramaiah, DKS dismiss Shamanur's charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Reacting sharply to allegations by Shamanur Shivashankarappa, MLA and veteran Congress leader, that officials from the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community are getting a raw deal under his party's government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said postings are not made on the basis of caste. Mr. Shivashankarappa, who heads the All-India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, claimed that civil servants belonging to the community had been given a raw deal. He made his grouse public at a function in Bengaluru recently.

Dismissing the allegations, the Chief Minister on Saturday pointed out that there were seven Lingayat Ministers in his Cabinet. On Sunday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said his party does not indulge in caste or community politics.

"Ours is a secular government, there will be no injustice to anyone," he said.

Pointing to the guarantee schemes, he said the schemes are not specific to any community or religion. "We do not practise caste or community politics. We see everyone equally," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said: "As he heads his community's body, he knows how much representation the community has got. It is natural for officials to expect plum posts. But the government cannot give postings on the basis of caste. We have to take into consideration all issues and try to create social justice in society".

Responding to the allegation pertaining to Mr. Siddaramaiah's governance and administration, the Deputy Chief Minister said: "Chief Ministers have the responsibility of taking everyone together. We as Ministers should also have common sense. Can we give posting to officials from just one community? We should give priority to social justice. The government should not put everything on the Chief Minister. We as Ministers should take responsibility."

"This has been happening all along. Mr. Shivshankarappa is the leader of our party. As a president of the community's body, there is pressure on him. Some officials have gone to him and requested. There is nothing wrong in asking like this," he said.

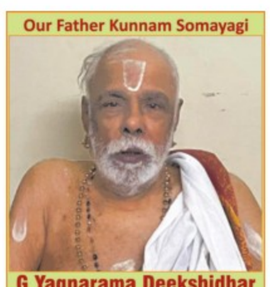
Speaking in support of Mr. Shivashankarappa, BJP leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who also hails from the community, on Sunday called on Veershaiva-Lingayats to be united. "I totally agree with his feelings. This concern about the Congress government's alleged neglect of the numerically large Veerashaiva-Lingayats is not just his. Many other leaders from the community share a similar opinion," he said.

"I welcome his statement. In such a situation I call upon the community to awaken, and to unite."

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Our Father Kunnam Somayagi



G Yagnarama Deekshidhar
attained Sivalogaprapthi
on 30.09.2023 at 10.30 pm
Deeply mourned by
Y Sridhar & Usha Sridhar,
Y Ramakrishnan &
Lakshmi Ramakrishnan,
Bhuvana Ramesh,
Rajeswari Shanmuganathan &
Shanmuganathan
and grand children
+91 9442185146 / +91 9840041114

OBITUARY

Vimala A.Reddy
12.03.1929 – 1.10.2023
Wife of Late Prof.
Amulya K.N. Reddy
We Pray for the
Peace of her Soul
Mourned by her Daughters
Srilatha, Amala and Lakshmi
and their Families

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No:EE/PWD/KD/TS-4/Tender Notification/2023-24/ 4265 Date: 25.09.2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION
1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender for the 01 work under 2059 Head of account e-portal Indent No. 5003, 2) Estimated Cost: **Rs. 180.00 Lakhs**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class I, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application fees as per e-procurement EMD : **Rs, 2,30,000.00,** 5) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **10/10/2023 (11.00 Hrs)**, 6) Last date for queries : **12/10/2023 upto 17.30 Hrs**, 7) Last date for submission of tender: **16/10/2023 upto 16.00 Hrs**, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid : **19/10/2023 upto 16.30 Hrs)**, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **21/10/2023 at 04.30 Hrs**,10) Address for Enquiries & Clarifications: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/339/KSMC&A/2023-24 **PWD Division Kalaburagi**

Government of Karnataka
(KARNATAKA RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURAGI-585105
No:EE/RDW&S/Dvn/Tech/2022-23/996 Dated : 30-09-2023
KPPP PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover)
The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honorable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial bid tender for drinking water works from eligible civil contractor detailed as below
The Tender Document with detailed condtions can be obtained through web site https: //kppp.karnataka.gov.in and should be submitted through E-procurment system only
1) Name of work : Afzalapur Taluka-05(Indent No 6089, 6088, 6086, 6092 & 6090) Aland Taluka-04 (Indent No 6104, 6102, 6101& 6100) Chincholi Taluka-01 (Indent No 6109) Kalaburagi Taluka-03 (Indent No 60096, 6094 & 6093) Jewargi Taluka-01 (Indent No 6106) Sedam Taluka-02 (Indent No 6098 & 6097), 2) Head of A/C: JJM 2022-23, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class- III , II & above, 4) Tender Amount: Min 74,72,702/-, Max 3,90,75,570/-, 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **30-10-2023 11:00am,** 6) Cost of tender form and EMD: As per KPPP Portal, 7) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **10-10-2023 4.00pm,** 8) Opening of Techincal Bid: **11-10-2023 4.01pm,** 9) Opening of Financial Bid: **13-10-2023 11:00am**, 10) Address for any clarification reg.tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/335/KSMC&A/2023-24 **RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi**

STATE HEALTH AGENCY (SHA KERALA)
5th & 8th Floor, Artech Meenakshi Plaza
Opp. Govt. W & C Hospital, Thycaud,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014
E mail - statehealthagencykerala@gmail.com
web: www.sha.kerala.gov.in
Ph. No. 0471 4063121
Tender id: 2023_SHA_607972_1
e-Tender Notice
Online Bids are invited from Eligible Third-Party Administrations/ Implementation's support Agencies (Licensed with IRDAI) for implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (AB PM- JAY KASP)** in Private Hospitals. For details on e-Bids submission and tender document, visit the e-procurement portal (**https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**) and SHA's official website (**www.sha.kerala.gov.in**). Last date for submission of the completed e-bid documents: **16.10.2023** (up to 16.00 Hrs.)
Date : 30.09.2023 **Sd/- Executive Director**

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT TRIBAL WELFARE OFFICER CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT, CHAMARAJANAGAR.
214, 2nd Floor, District Administrative Building,
B. Rachaiah Double Road, Chamarajanagar 571313
Email : dtwoffice.217@gmail.com ☎ 08226-226070 & Fax No : 08226-226070
No:DTWO/OS/BuUYo/2023-24 Dated: 12-09-2023
E-Procurement Tender Notification
For the academic year 2023-24, for the supply of Group A, Group-B, Group C & Group-D food items for Rs. 390.00 lakhs to the students of Pre-Matric / Post-Matric Hostels and Valmiki Ashram Schools of Tribal Welfare Department under the jurisdiction of Chamarajanagar district in double envelope system. Short Term Tender Announcement through e-procurement will be issued on Date : 12.09.2023. Date : 22.09.2023 to 23.10.2023 by 5.30PM on the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in eligible organizations are invited to upload the relevant documents as per the terms and conditions of the tender.
For further information Office of the District Tribal Welfare Officer, # 214, 2nd Floor, District Administration Building, Chamarajanagar requested to be contacted during office hours.
Sd/-District Tribal Welfare Officer, Chamarajanagar Dist. Chamarajanagar
DIPR: CHANAGAR:152:2023-24

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

How government agencies use commercial spyware to target opponents

How was former Egyptian MP Ahmed Eltantawy's device targeted by Cytrox's Predator spyware? Is the use of spyware by governments targeting political opponents and dissidents increasing? Have tech companies made modifications to their devices to counter such attacks?

Nabeel Ahmed

The story so far:

Between May and September, former Egyptian MP Ahmed Eltantawy was targeted with Cytrox's Predator spyware sent via links on SMS and WhatsApp. Apple has since released an update for its products fixing the bug used in the attack. The attack on Mr. Eltantawy came after he publicly stated plans to run for President in the 2024 Egyptian elections, which is especially concerning since Egypt is a known customer of Cytrox's Predator spyware, Citizen Lab said in a blog post.

Is this a first?

This was not the first time spyware was used for surveilling a political opponent in a country. In 2021, investigations under the Pegasus Project revealed the massive scale of potential targets of spyware – more than 50,000 phone numbers in 50 countries. Reports shared that victims of the spyware attacks were in India, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The Pegasus spyware was also reportedly used by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to target journalist Jamal Khashoggi's wife months before his death. Mr. Khashoggi, a U.S. resident, was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. He was a known critic of the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

However, in almost all known cases authorities either chose to deny allegations of the use of spyware or have been non-committal in their response.

What is spyware?

Spyware is loosely defined as malicious software designed to enter a device, gather sensitive data, and forward it to a third party without the user's consent. While spyware may be used for commercial purposes like advertising, malicious spyware is used to profit from data stolen from a victim's device. Spyware is broadly categorised as trojan spyware, adware, tracking cookie, and system monitors. While each type of spyware gathers data for the author, system monitors and adware are more harmful as they may make modifications to a device's software and expose the device to further threats.

What is commercial spyware?

Malicious spyware has been around since the 1990s. Earlier iterations of spyware were limited to being used by criminals to steal passwords or financial information. However, opportunities for governments and law enforcement agencies to use spyware as part of legal investigations led to the development of commercial spyware. Commercial spyware mainly targets mobile platforms and can legitimately be used against criminals and terrorists. However, the lack of global regulations for companies developing spyware has led to their use by authoritarian governments to spy on political opponents.

Commercial spyware, such as the Pegasus spyware from the NSO group, can reportedly not only mop up information from mobile devices but also turn on the camera and microphone without the owner's knowledge, effectively turning handsets into a spying device.

How are the devices targeted?

Investigations by Citizen Lab and Google's Threat Analysis Group (TAG) revealed that spyware on the former Egyptian MP's device was delivered via network injection from a device located physically inside Egypt. The investigators, therefore, attribute the network injection attack to the Egyptian government with "high confidence".

Mr. Eltantawy's device was infected when he visited certain websites without 'HTTPS' from his phone using his Vodafone Egypt mobile data connection. When he visited these sites, his device was silently redirected to a website, that matches the fingerprint for Cytrox's Predator spyware – this is where his device was injected with the spyware, Citizen Lab shared in a blog post. Further investigation revealed that Mr. Eltantawy received several SMS messages in September 2021, May 2023, and September 2023 that posed as messages originating from WhatsApp.

In India, the Pegasus spyware was part of a $2-billion "package of sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear" transaction between India and Israel after Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel, according to reports published in *The New York Times*. The spyware in India was used against at least 40 journalists, Cabinet Ministers, and holders of constitutional positions, according to reports in *The Washington Post*. The spyware was delivered to the victim's phones by exploiting zero-day vulnerabilities, which means even the device manufacturer was unaware of these exploits.

And while in all these cases, malicious links were sent to the victim's device, reports indicate that the spyware is capable of zero-click attacks. This means that they can infect a device without requiring users to click on a malicious attachment or link.

Is the use of spyware increasing?

Between 2011 and 2023, at least 74 governments contracted with commercial firms to obtain spyware or digital forensics technology, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, an independent international affairs think tank, shared in a blog post.

Autocratic regimes are more likely to purchase commercial spyware or digital forensics than democracies – 44 regimes classified as closed autocracies or electoral autocracies are known to have procured targeted surveillance technologies, the post said.

Earlier this year, an Indian defence agency was reportedly purchasing equipment from an Israeli spyware firm that is being billed as a potential Pegasus alternative, according to trade data reviewed by *The Hindu*. The firm in question is Cognyte Software Ltd, which faces a class action lawsuit in the U.S. from investors. In 2022, a report from *The New York Times* shared that the FBI in the U.S. had bought a version of the Pegasus spyware and that Mexican authorities had deployed NSO products against journalists and political dissidents. Similar uses have also been reported in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Inconsistencies in democratic governments' approach in tackling human rights abuses and lack of fragmentations in the regulatory framework are seen as enablers in the use of spyware by authorities. An example of this can be noted in the NSO Group establishing subsidiaries in Bulgaria and Cyprus to facilitate selling their products.

Do spyware firms face backlash?

In 2021, after 16 media outlets formed a consortium known as the Pegasus Project and gained access to a list of fifty thousand phone numbers targeted by the NSO group's clients, the U.S. blacklisted the NSO Group, driving the firm to the brink of bankruptcy. However, patrons of the surveillance industry turned to other companies in the domain to accomplish their goals, leaving the spyware industry as a whole relatively unscathed.

Even before the Pegasus Project raised an alarm about the use of spyware by government agencies, Germany's FinFisher and Italy's Hacking Team were dominant players in the market. Products from both companies were linked to surveillance abuses in a range of countries. Israel is the leading exporter of spyware and digital forensics, but the country has not sufficiently prioritised human rights considerations in its export licensing regime, according to Carnegie.

How have tech companies reacted?

Tech giants including Meta, Google, and Apple have taken concrete steps to address the problem of commercial spyware firms exploiting bugs in their software. In the case of Mr. Eltantawy, Apple and Google updated their software to fix the bugs exploited by Cytrox's Predator spyware. Apple with its iOS 16 also released a 'Lockdown Mode', which the company called an "extreme protection" designed for high-risk individuals. While the Lockdown Mode in Apple's software limits the device's functionality, it has proven to be a viable option to protect against spyware attacks.

Meta-owned WhatsApp has gone as far as pursuing a lawsuit accusing Israel's NSO Group of exploiting a bug in its software. The lawsuit filed in 2019 seeks an injunction and damages from the NSO Group. WhatsApp has alleged that the spyware firm accessed its servers without permission six months prior to installing the Pegasus software on victim's mobile devices. The current U.S. administration has urged U.S. justices to reject NSO's appeal against the lawsuit.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, on his 154th birth anniversary

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

In his autobiographical reflections, Gandhi writes about how as a young student in school, he was the only one in his class to get the spelling of a word wrong as he had refused to copy the correct one from his neighbour, in a spelling exercise conducted by a school inspector. What was that five letter word?

QUESTION 2

One of the first associations that Gandhi became a member of, in 1890, was because of the influence of social reformer, writer and pacifist Henry Salt. Name the association.

QUESTION 3

On September 11, 1906, at a mass protest meeting held at Johannesburg, Gandhi adopted a form of protest for the first time, to agitate against a promulgation by the Transvaal government to compulsorily register all Indian and Chinese populations. What was this protest later called?

QUESTION 4

After his return from South Africa to India in 1915, what was the only occasion on which Gandhi travelled outside (colonial) India before his death in 1948? Which former editor of *The Hindu* acted as Gandhi's secretary during this occasion?

QUESTION 5

One of Gandhi's final acts as a satyagrahi before his death was his heroic effort to stop the communal violence that had gripped many parts of north and east India in the run-up to and after the Partition of the country. Name the place he was staying in Calcutta (it is now called Gandhi Bhawan) when India won independence on August 15, 1947.

Visual question:

The photo shows the persons who were on trial for Gandhi's assassination. The man in the front is Nathuram Godse. Name the person in the back, wearing spectacles and a cap (he was acquitted).

Questions and Answers to the September 29 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This judge was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the U.S. on September 29 in 2005. **Ans: John G. Roberts, Jr.**
2. These two countries, separated by this sea, established diplomatic relations in 1972. **Ans: Japan and China; East China Sea**
3. In 1962, a planetarium which was propelled by this Calcutta-based industrialist began operating as a research institution. **Ans: M.P. Birla**
4. The theme of last year's World Heart Day. **Ans: Use Heart for Every Heart**
5. This swimmer became the first Asian woman to complete a successful swim across the English Channel. **Ans: Arati Saha**
Visual: Identify this person. **Ans: Julia Gillard. She was the first woman to head the Labour party in Australia**
Early Birds: Rashi Rahul| Sadhan Kumar Panda| Atul Gaur

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Get all your ducks in a row for the event

If you don't do it by this week, your new boss is going to drive you around the bend

S. Upendran

"Congratulations! I heard you've bought a new car. How is it?"

"It's great! I'm taking Sujatha for a long drive on Sunday. Want to come along?"

"I can't. You know that my company is launching a new product next week."

"That's only on Thursday. I'm talking about Sunday."

"I know! But some of us are going to be busy. We've been asked to have all our ducks in a row before the launch."

"Your ducks in a row?"

"The expression 'have one's ducks in a row' is mostly heard in informal contexts. It means to be well organised for something that is going to happen."

"In other words, you do everything possible to ensure that things run like clockwork at the event."

"I guess you could say that!"

"How about this example? *Priya is moving into a new apartment. She hasn't even started packing as yet. She doesn't have all her ducks in a row.*"

"That's to be expected. By the way, it's also possible to say, 'get all one's ducks in a row'. *Dinesh said he'd get all his ducks in a row before leaving on a two-week holiday.*"

"The team spent weeks planning the event. *Unfortunately, they didn't get all their ducks in a row.*"

"That's a good example."

"Tell me, where does the expression come from? What's the origin?"

"Well, there are several theories regarding the origin. According to some...."

"Give me just one. I don't need to hear all of them."

"Have you ever noticed how ducklings walk behind their mother?"

"Yes, I have. They don't walk as a group. They are very disciplined. They walk one behind the other."

"That's right! They all line up. It's one chick behind the other. They are in a single row."

"And they look rather cute. If I make the drive a very short one, will you come with us?"

"I've already said no. Why are you nervous about the drive?"

"It's not my driving skill that I'm worried about. When I go on long drives, I like to enjoy the peace and quiet."

"With Sujatha in the car, you won't have peace and quiet. She'll drive you around the bend with all her questions."

"Drive me around the bend? Does it mean to drive me crazy?"

"Very good! That's exactly what it means. When someone drives you around the bend, they make you crazy. They annoy you so much that you get frustrated or angry. The expression can be used with things as well. *Sunitha's terrible singing was driving people around the bend.*"

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Hangdog:
showing a sense of guilt; frightened into submission or compliance

Synonyms: guilty, shamed

Usage: *She could tell from his hangdog look that things had gone badly.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/hangdogpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌhæŋˈdɔg/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Some of the images displayed at the exhibition. M.N. JAYAKUMAR

This photo exhibition in Bengaluru drives home a conservation message

Celebrate National Wildlife Week between October 2 and 8 by visiting M.N. Jayakumar's *Encounters in the Wild 2.0 at* the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

The large photograph hanging on the wall of Hall 1 at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath (CKP) is a particularly endearing one. It depicts three tigers huddled close together, staring into the camera lens with unblinking amber eyes.

M.N. Jayakumar, the man behind the photo, recalls being in a particular part of the national park very early one day–around 6.15 in the morning–when he saw a tiger, Gowri, rush past them and disappear into the woods. They spent the next few hours circling around that block of the national park, he says, but could simply not spot her till much later in the morning, feeding on a sambar deer.

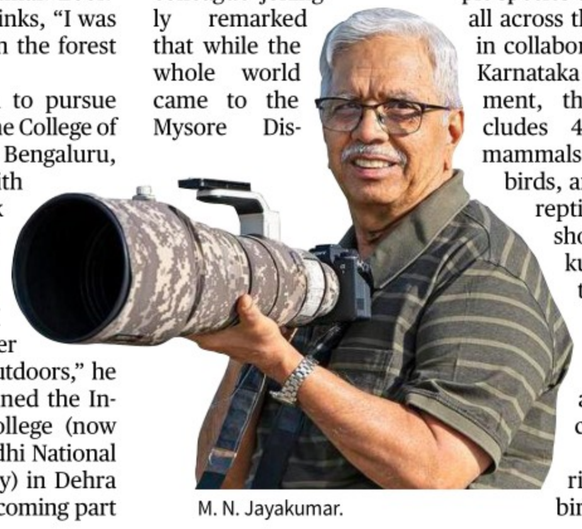
She wasn't alone, but was accompanied by her four sub-adult cubs. "She had made the kill and gone rushing back to bring her cubs," says Mr. Jayakumar, who spent the next couple of hours, watching the little family feed. "I think she wanted some rest so she brought the cubs to the waterhole to play in the water," says Mr. Jayakumar, who clicked the snap when the family was frolicking in the waterhole. "I liked this image because it looks like a family portrait," he says.

An official in the wild

This photograph is one of the 231 that form part of *Encounters in the Wild 2.0*, a solo exhibition both celebrating global wildlife as well as commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger, the wildlife conservation movement launched in 1973 to protect and preserve the Bengal tiger. Talking about his obsession with wildlife and conservation, Mr. Jayakumar recalls the incident that started off his passion for the wild.

In 1971, his father took him to watch a *khedda*, or wild elephant capture in Mysuru, among the last conducted in India before the practice was banned under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, of 1972. He was only 19 back then, and the incident impacted him greatly, remembers Mr. Jayakumar. Looking back, he thinks, "I was destined to join the forest service."

He went on to pursue agriculture at the College of Agriculture, Bengaluru, graduating with the second rank there, before turning his attention to forest service. "I wanted a career that took me outdoors," he says. So, he joined the Indian Forest College (now the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy) in Dehra Dun, before becoming part of the Forest Department.



M. N. Jayakumar.

Photography happened rather serendipitously back in 1993 or so. He was working as a deputy range forest officer in Mysore, and would often host wildlife photographers from all over the country who would stop by for a meal while visiting Bandipur or Nagarahole." On one occasion, a colleague joking-ly remarked that while the whole world came to the Mysore District for photography, you–being the head of the district–are wasting your time," he says, with a laugh. "That really spurred me to learn."

25 years of photography

Encounters in the Wild 2.0, which is spread across four halls in the CKP multiple species, documents multiple species of animals from all across the world. Held in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department, the display includes 47 species of mammals, 109 types of birds, and 8 species of reptiles and frogs shot on Mr. Jayakumar's travels to different parts of India, Southeast Asia, Africa and the Americas.

From the gloriously-plumed birds of the Galapagos to tawny Bengal tigers; giraffes, elephants, and lions silhouetted against twilight skies shot with ochre and vermillion and even an aerial large shot of Machu Picchu, that icon of the ancient Inca empire, every photograph on display is evocative and stunning, a visual representation of Mr. Jayakumar's love for the great outdoors. "Thankfully, all of us (his wife and two children) are lovers of nature. So, it doesn't come in the way of my activity," he says, adding that three of the images exhibited at the show were taken by his wife. Mr. Jayakumar had his first solo exhibition in 1998, beginning with a series in New Delhi to commemorate the silver jubilee of Project Tiger.

This was followed by what he thinks of as the first edition of *Encounters in the Wild* at CKP in 2008 and another titled *Birds as Art* at UB City, Bengaluru.

Most of the images in this exhibition, his fourth, were shot after he retired in 2012. "I have a group of friends, all my age, who I travel with regularly," he says, adding that these travels enable him to continue observing and photographing wildlife. "As soon as I have my back and legs intact, I hope to keep on documenting nature," says Mr. Jayakumar who is all set to visit Kenya in November, followed by Rwanda, Uganda, Columbia and the U.S. early next year. As with all his shows, he hopes to "experience, educate and engage viewers," with *Encounters in the Wild 2.0*. "Every image in this exhibition will have a QR code that you can scan to get to know about the animal," he says. And yes, if you don't like reading or are visually impaired, there is an audio option too. "All you need to do is bring your headphones," he says. Mr. Jayakumar firmly believes that exposing urban dwellers to the magnificence and beauty of nature through exhibitions such as this one can go a long way toward driving conservation in this country. "I hope the people who attend my exhibition will engage with the forest department afterwards, in times of crisis, to protect our precious earth," he says.

As human beings encroach into the habitat of wild animals, leading to an increase in conflict, it is more important than ever before to learn how to peaceably live with the natural world, believes Mr. Jayakumar. "We need to know how to adjust their lives to see that it is not disturbed."

Encounters in the Wild 2.0 is on till September 8 at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath from 10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. Entry free for all.

WWF's innovative initiative at KSR Railway Station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

WWF-India's Karnataka State Office, in collaboration with South Western Railway, is hosting an innovative initiative at the KSR Railway Station. This venture aims to shed light on the critical issue of plastic pollution and educate railway station visitors on the importance of reducing plastic consumption.

At the heart of this endeavour is the 'Snakes and Ladders' awareness game, a fun and interactive way to convey the message of environmental sustainability. Instead of Snakes there are plastic bottles and instead of Ladders there are creepers/ trees. The game gives players useful facts about plastic pollution as well as tips on how to reduce your plastic consumption. As part of this unique experience, a dedicated WWF volunteer will be on hand throughout the specified dates to guide visitors and explain the game's rules.

In the last 3 days, this initiative has successfully engaged approximately 250-300 people, creating awareness with people.

V. Balasubramanian's memoir set for release in Kannada

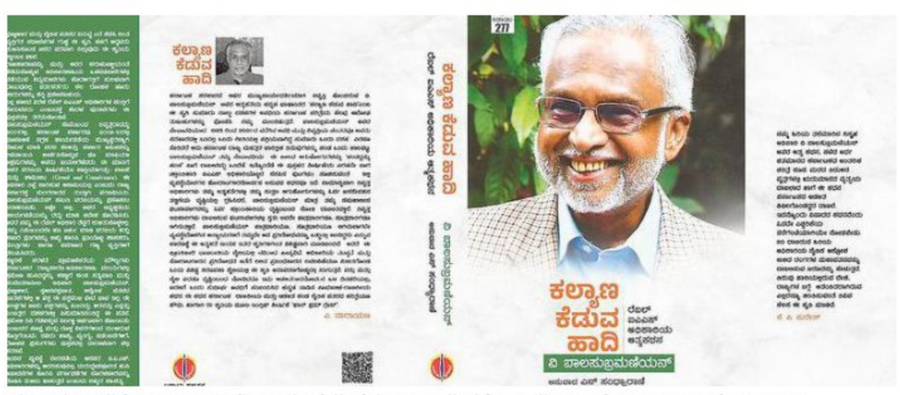
The book is a reflection of his experiences of working with political leaders and other bureaucrats for several years

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Fall from Grace - Memoirs of a Rebel IAS Officer, the autobiography of V. Balasubramanian, an officer of the 1965 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) belonging to the Karnataka cadre, is ready to have a release in Kannada, following the popularity of the English book since its release in March, 2022.

Mr. Balasubramanian worked under different Chief Ministers of Karnataka from Veerendra Patil, Devaraj Urs, Gundu Rao, Ramakrishna Hegde, S.M. Krishna, and others. He held various posts that helped him see history unfold, such as Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate for six years in Bengaluru during the Emergency. The book is a reflection of his experiences of working with these political leaders and other bureaucrats for several years.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Balasubramanian said, "The book was written two years ago and released last year."



The title *Fall from Grace* reflects the fall of the so-called four pillars or four estates of any State.

With eight CMs

The title *Fall from Grace* reflects the fall of the so-called four pillars or four estates of any State. It is about the fall of the political establishments, the bureaucracy, and the judiciary, and the fourth pillar being the press or the media. I have worked with close to eight Chief Ministers of Karnataka, from the time of Veerendra Patil from 1967 to S.M. Krishna. Post my retirement I have also worked with Chief Ministers like B.S. Yediyurappa and H.D. Kumaraswamy."

"In the IAS you get a chance to closely observe Chief Ministers, Prime Ministers, MLAs, and other bureaucrats. One gets to witness incidents that never come out in the open. When we are being trained to become an IAS Officer, we are asked to keep our eyes and ears open, but our mouth shut. But post-service or retirement we have no restrictions, which is why I have written this book. Putting together instances from the last five decades and my varied experiences before and after becoming an IAS officer," Mr. Balasubramanian added.

Why in Kannada

Proudly calling himself a "rebel", Mr. Balasubramanian said, "An IAS officer is usually a very compliant person... they go along with the tides and take whatever benefits the job has to offer." He cited instances from his career when he bucked this trend and did what he thought was right. For instance, as Assistant Commissioner in Lingasagur, Raichur district, he caught a cabinet minister for non-payment of government dues. The person took the issue all the way to the then chief minister Veerendra Patil asking that he be transferred, but he latter did not oblige.

On translating the book to Kannada, Mr. Balasubramanian said since most of the incidents cited in the book happened in Karnataka, it made sense to release it in the language of the state, "Once the book was released last year, it got very good reviews and response from across the State. Many of my close friends and ex-colleagues said the book was very interesting, had a journalistic touch to it, and it was important to have the book released in Kannada as I have cited many incidents that happened in Karnataka."

Titled *Kalyana Keduva Hadi* in Kannada, the book has been translated by well-known Kannada author N. Sandhya Rani. The book will be released on October 2, at 10 a.m., IAS Association Hall.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1, 1973

Forest College to be Established in Mysore State

Bangalore, Sep. 30: A Forestry College is being started in the Mysore State, either in Bangalore or in Dharwar.

The State Government's decision to start a Forestry College was announced by the Forest and Agriculture Minister, Mr. H. Patil, while addressing the annual session of the Indian Academy of Wood Science, here, at the premises of the Indian Plywood Industries Research Institute. Earlier, in his annual address, Mr. K. S. Lauly, Vice-President of the Academy, made a forceful plea, for starting forest universities and forest colleges in the country to help serve the cause of wood science.

Frontal Attack on Economic Backwardness Urged

Bangalore, Sept. 30: Mr. K. Subba Rao, former Chief Justice of India, stressed here on Sept. 29 that economic backwardness was the basis of all backwardness. The main attack of the state should be on this aspect.

He was inaugurating a jurist seminar on backward classes. He said the term backward classes had not been defined in the Constitution though its characteristics had been described and some of the categories coming under the "class" had been listed.

The concept of backwardness cut across the caste system. The Constitution had provided for a scheme to uplift the backwrad class so that, they could enter as early as possible the main stream of national life.

(The issue dated October 2, is not available)

CITYBEATS

Musical evening

TODAY, 6 PM
Get ready for a night of musical magic at Phoenix Marketcity. Muraad Live will take the stage to deliver an enchanting concert. This band specializes in Bollywood and Kollywood mashup songs, accompanied by the flute, cajon, and percussion-based instrumental fusion music.
At Courtyard, Phoenix Marketcity. Entry is free.

Roasting techies

ON OCTOBER 6 AND 7
Meet Socially Inept, a trio of former engineers who traded their desk jobs for the stage to skewer the tech world. Since their debut in 2018, this audacious comedy group has amassed a whopping 400k+ followers across platforms. They regularly grace major tech hubs in the US with side-splitting live shows.
At Good Shepherd Auditorium, Richmond Town. Tickets on bookmyshow.com

Into the wild

UNTIL OCTOBER 8
Prepare to embark on a captivating visual journey through the world's jungles with MN Jayakumar's solo exhibition, 'Encounters in the Wild 2.0,' in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department. This exhibition, featuring 231 photographs, pays tribute to India's conservation milestone, Project Tiger's Golden Jubilee, while showcasing the incredible diversity of wildlife.
At Chitrakala Parishath. Entry is free.

Get your feet moving

Movement therapy in Bengaluru, Tamil kuthu in Chennai or hip-hop in Hyderabad... Dancescapes presents a city via performance art experiences

Priyadershini S

Footloose and fit Dancescapes in different cities have citizens moving and grooving to new experiences. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Can a traveller experience a city through the art forms thriving therein?

Yes, if one goes by the initiative taken by Kerala-based Experiential Tourism company, The Blue Yonder and dancer Swati Prasad. The duo has yoked tourism and performing arts, in curated, city-specific modules – Dancescapes – to showcase each city from a cultural perspective.

The niche experiences were created based on suggestions given by inbound travel operators and a demand the founders saw in "the conscious traveller who wishes to experience this eco-system, up close," says Gopinath Parayil, who runs The Blue Yonder. He has been conducting Kathakali trails in Kerala as a popular showcase for nearly two decades.

Their first tour was launched in Puducherry in August 2023, and modules in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi and New Delhi commence in October. "The customised modules will enable a traveller to visit art spaces, observe the art form, experience a lec-dem or view a performance and finally learn the basics of the art," says Gopinath.

Swati, a dancer pursuing art management believes that a symbiotic relationship exists between the artiste and the city, which results in the expansion of the art itself and the city gaining in terms of variety and depth.

Bengaluru
Swati, overseeing the Bengaluru module, says the city is interesting to navigate and has connected with dance schools that practise new approaches, such as Citizens of Stage Collective, founded by dancer Diya Naidu, with initial support from Shoonya Center for art and somatic practices. "They have a wide range of movement experiences for people from all walks of life," she says. Some of the other art schools she speaks about are Beru and Nirali Dance School founded by Bharatanatyam dancer Priyanka Chandrasekhar.

"Beru art space is a community run organisation and recently staged a dance production, *Taala Tamate*, in collaboration with Aravani art project and a parai collective called Adavi. Ours is a residential space and we generate a lot of productions. Travellers can get educated on that,"says Dayanand Akhilesh, founder.

The first dancescapes module kicked off in Bengaluru on September 30.

Kochi
Curated by actor and actor-trainer, Lakshmi Menon the modules focus on the Latin Christian art form Chavittunadakam, one that takes the travellers to the island of Gothuruth, where the dance is claimed to have originated. Inspired by European opera the performances are high decible, energetic and involve vigorous foot stomping. Other experiences, in the pipeline, include engagements with a hip-hop team, House of AOS(Art Of Sphere), a hybrid kalari team, movement workshops by the Labyrinth Collective and a visit to Mudra Dance Studio at Convent Junction, founded by modern dancer Susheela Pai.

"Kochi has a growing community of rappers and our performances draw crowds," says Vishnu Radhakrishnan, who manages the six member crew of House of AOS. He adds that their team of professional dancers perform hip-hop, freestyle and mixed styles of modern dance. The tours in Kochi kick off in first week of November.

Puducherry
Curated by theatre practitioner Ramaswamy and founder of the Vellipapadai Theatre Movement, the Puducherry module will consist of engagements with local folk arts, martial art and theatre groups.

"The areas around Puducherry have a great tradition of folk art. We have local fold dances like Paryaittam, Oyilattam, Sattaikuchi Chinakolatam, Periyakolatam and more. Therukoothu or traditional street theatre of this land is famous. It is performed overnight in temple festivals," says Ramaswamy.

He speaks about an exchange between visitors and members of local drama group like the Mailam Murugan Therukoothu Nataka Sabha founded by a youngster, G Avinash, Mamallan Silamban run by Master Palanivelu, an authority on the form and a classical dance school run by Vithya Arasu of Natyakala Vidyalaya.

Chennai
Leading the tours in Chennai is gymnast and visual artiste, Ghanapriya who has selected four experiences that offer a fresh perspective of the city. She is consciously projecting nouveau dance forms of Chennai, away from the classical presentation of Bharatanatyam that the city is well known for.

"Chennaites are great dancers and like the Gujaratis who have their dandiya and Punjabis the bhangra, Tamil Nadu and Chennai has Tamil kuthu. "It is a highly energetic and uninhibited dance. We will showcase this under folk expressions which will also have young female Parai artistes perform," says Ghana.

Another unique dance that's developing in Chennai will be showcased under Afro-Dance Hall, by Alisha Ajith. "The dance explores the common rhythm, movement and beats between African and local dance," says Swati adding that travelers will be encouraged to participate in the class.

Hyderabad
A performer trained in Bharatanatyam, Nenita Praveen is curating the Hyderabad modules. "At the end of the day the modules are travel-centric experiences, so we have to keep distances, localities, artist studios and spaces in mind," says Nenita, who plans to include ongoing performances in the city, studio visits, workshops and heritage-cum-storytelling walks.

Heritage city walks curated by journalist and historian Yunus Lasania, a musical experience of the Qawwali at Yusufain and a dance performance at Golconda Fort will be part of the tours.

Dancescapes will be launched in Hyderabad on October 7 and 8.

FILM REVIEW

Redemption, a second time round

Vivek MV

Round two Jaggesh and Aditi Prabhudeva from 'Thothapuri: Chapter 2'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a scene from *Thothapuri: Chapter 2,* the lead characters go to a theatre to watch the Kannada hit *Neer Dose,* helmed by Vijay Prasad, the director of this film. This meta touch underlines how *Neer Dose* has been a blessing and a curse for Prasad.

Neer Dose, which superbly blended adult comedy with issues of people considered outcasts, was a refreshing film. Prasad had the knack of showing loners becoming friends and fighting harsh discrimination in an emotionally rewarding way. Right from his debut, *Sidlingu* (which had Ramya as female lead), all his films are helped by an ensemble cast of seasoned performers.

His downfall began when he repeated this formula in *Petromax* and *Thothapuri: Chapter 1.* The format of both films resembled that of *Neer Dose*. The familiarity was too hard to ignore, forcing people to lose faith in the filmmaker. Preachiness and his obsession with double entendres hit the roof in *Thothapuri: Chapter 1,* which spoke of religious harmony.

As expected, the first part, released in 2022, was about the lives of four characters from different backgrounds. Tailor Eere Gowda (Jaggesh), his assistant Nanjama who is from a socially disadvantaged background, 'Donne' Rangamma (Veena Sundar), a hard-working breadwinner for the family, Shakeela Banu (Aditi Prabhudeva), a bank employee and Victoria (Suman Ranganathan), a nun, formed the central characters of the film.

The film, showcasing friendships while exploring individual stories, oscillated between long lectures on inclusivity and inappropriate placements of sexual innuendos.

Prasad redeems the sequel sufficiently enough, making it an involving film on an important theme. Having learned from his mistakes, he tones down the adult humour, becomes less of a moral advisor and more of a storyteller, fleshes out characters nicely, and delves deeper into the central conflict.

This focused approach reveals Prasad's strength in delivering poignant scenes involving commoners. The director does not hold back while arraigning people's mindset of upholding religion and caste over love and unity. Women talking candidly about alcohol and sex, a common feature in Prasad's films, is also seen in *Thothapuri: Chapter 2*. The director even gives a peek into his ideology, perhaps, in a scene involving B R Ambedkar's statue.

Prasad is an important filmmaker, for not many can be as brave as him by showcasing a Hindu-Muslim love story in today's times. If he can be less indulgent and tell relatable tales without resorting to a single template, the director can make films that generate conversations and leave a mark.

Thothapuri: Chapter 2 is currently running in theatres

Thothapuri: Chapter 2 (Kannada)
Director: Vijay Prasad
Cast: Jaggesh, Veena Sundar, Aditi Prabhudeva, Dhananjaya, Suman Ranganathan
Runtime: 120 minutes
Storyline: Five friends from varied backgrounds fight religious discrimination and stereotypical judgements in society

Lacking romance

Vivek MV

The title of *Baanadariyalli* (On the Path to the Sky) , starring Ganesh and directed by Preetham Gubbi, is derived from the famous song 'Baana Daariyalli Surya Jaari Hoda' sung by Puneeth Rajkumar in the 1981 Kannada film *Bhagyavantha*.

The film begins with Rangayana Raghu's character putting his little daughter Leela to sleep by singing this song as a lullaby. Leela (Rukmini Vasanth) grows up being fascinated by animals and caring for the environment. Her father is everything to her, but their bond gets disrupted when Siddharth(Ganesh), falls in love with Leela.

The premise of *Baandariyalli* is interesting; it is about the great lengths people go to fulfill the dreams of their loved ones. It is also a story of love, acceptance and self-realisation.

That said, the film is a missed opportunity as Gubbi makes a mess of the source material (the story is from Preetha Jayaraman, the cinematographer of Fahadh Faasil's *Dhoomam*). He fails to deliver a feel-good romance laced with adventure and emotional undertones.

Love all Rukmini Vasanth and Ganesh in a still from the movie. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Early on, the chemistry between Ganesh and Rukmini appears strange and the love story between the lead characters blossoms through frivolous developments. Rukmini, essaying a champion swimmer, is wasted in a half-baked character, but at least the actor looks the part. You cannot tell the same about Ganesh. He plays a cricketer struggling to get into the State team.

The film also tries its hand at adventure when the drama shifts to Masai Mara in southwestern Kenya. The National Reserve is a photographer's paradise, so we get exactly that; a montage of lions, cheetahs, and zebras in the wild and rugged landscapes, shot by cinematographer Abhilash Kalathi. Gubbi does not use the change of location as a narrative tool to strengthen the film's plot. So we get silly scenes featuring Ganesh, Rangayana Raghu and Reeshma Nanaiah, who essays a caricaturish influencer.

The dialogue writer Maasthi Upparahalli's wordplay caters more to the gallery than being closer to reality. Even Rangayana Raghu, an ever-reliable actor, is surprisingly off-colour here with an over-dramatic portrayal of a heartbroken father.

Gubbi, after a promising start as a writer-director in the Kannada film industry, has fallen off the radar by failing to change with the times. And, despite being a fine actor, Ganesh has not been ambitious enough to propel his career to the next level.

Baanadariyalli is currently running in theatres

Baanadariyalli (Kannada)
Director: Preetham Gubbi
Cast: Ganesh, Rukmini Vasanth, Reeshma Nanaiah, Rangayana Raghu
Runtime: 149 minutes
Storyline: Leela, a swimmer and Siddharth, a cricketer, fall in love; when tragedy strikes, it's all about helping your loved ones fulfil their dreams

Tragic incident: The car that plunged into Periyar in Ernakulam district on Saturday night killing two doctors. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two doctors die after car falls into river in Kerala; 3 rescued

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Two doctors died after their car plunged into Periyar at Gothuruth in Ernakulam district of Kerala on Saturday midnight. Three other passengers in the car were rescued by local people.

As per preliminary assessment by the police and statements of local people, heavy rain and 'wrong direction' shown on Google Maps led to the accident.

Those dead are Advaith and Ajmal, both aged 28, who were working at a private hospital in Kodungalloor. Another doctor and two students were rescued.

Followed Google Maps

They were returning after attending the birthday party of Dr. Advaith in Kochi. "They apparently took a wrong turn based on directions on Google Maps. They were under the impression that they were entering a waterlogged road around 12.35 a.m. The survivors said they were confident that it was a road since they saw the lights of a temple straight ahead. The temple was in fact located on the other side of the river," said a police inspector. A resident who saw the car plunge into the river alerted others and led the initial rescue efforts.

Officials of Google could not be contacted despite repeated efforts. A barricade was subsequently placed on the road to warn motorists of the waterbody.

Ebin Sam, a scientist at NATPAC, recounted how he and his fellow passengers in a car had a lucky escape after Google Maps once directed them to a road that ended in a gorge. Luckily, it was daytime.

"Motorists must be vigilant on unfamiliar roads, especially at night and during inclement weather. They must be on the watch for signboards," he added.

DKS says inflows into Cauvery reservoirs have increased to 15,000 cusecs

BJP leader S.M. Krishna says Union government should put an end to the Cauvery water-sharing dispute by evolving a distress formula in consultation with all the four riparian States

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, has said that cumulative inflows into the reservoirs in Karnataka's Cauvery basin have increased to 15,000 cusecs a day bringing some sort of relief to the State.

Speaking to pressperson in Bengaluru on Sunday, Mr. Shivakumar said while the inflows had increased into the reservoirs, people had to pray for more rains in the State.

He said though the State was not releasing water to Tamil Nadu through the KRS, about 6,500 cusecs of water a day was reaching that State owing to rains in and around Bengaluru.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has asserted Karnataka was ready for a legal fight over the Cauvery row.

This had showed that more rains would strengthen Karnataka's position with respect to Cauvery water sharing, he said, and asserted that the State was ready for a legal fight with respect to the issue.

The State had filed an appeal before the Cauvery Water Management Authority seeking that it should reconsider its direction to Karnataka to release water to Tamil Nadu. He pointed out that such an appeal had been filed after consulting several retired judges and senior advocates.

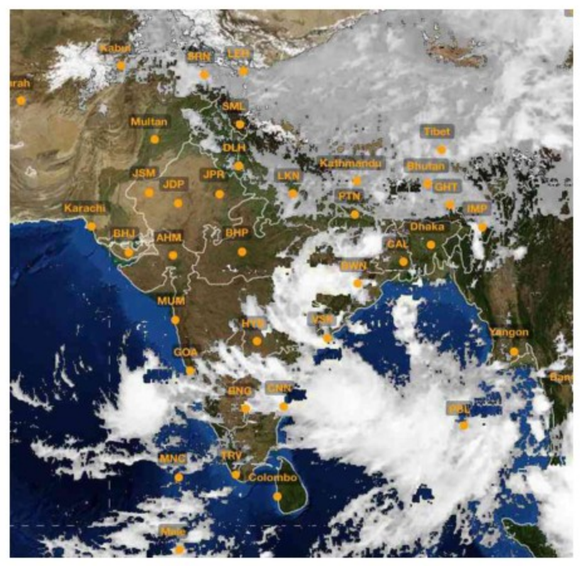
Meanwhile, former Union Minister and veteran BJP leader S.M. Krishna observed that the Union government should put an end to the row over the sharing of Cauvery river water by evolving a distress formula in consultation with all the four riparian States.

Speaking to pressperson in Bengaluru, Mr. Krishna argued that such consultations with all the riparian States to evolve a distress formula was the only way to end the dispute.

He pointed out that the then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee had tried to hold such consultations with the riparian States when he was the Chief Minister of Karnataka. However, such efforts had not become successful, he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over north Chattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, heavy rainfall likey at isolated places over East Uttar Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.0	34.8	25.6	Kozhikode	46.0	28.5	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	36.9	25.5	Kurnool	0.8	33.6	25.1
Aizawl	43.0	31.5	20.7	Lucknow	—	35.4	24.8
Allahabad	—	36.0	25.0	Madurai	—	35.2	25.7
Bengaluru	0.4	28.1	21.1	Mangaluru	34.0	27.8	23.6
Bhopal				Mumbai	21.0	32.7	24.5
Bhubaneswar	16.4	32.6	23.6	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	34.5	22.2	New Delhi	—	35.1	21.6
Chennai	0.3	35.5	26.3	Patna	4.4	33.6	24.5
Coimbatore	1.0	31.2	23.4	Port Blair	23.0	29.4	24.3
Dehradun	—	33.4	20.6	Puducherry	—	—	—
Gangtok	5.0	20.7	17.2	Pune	18.0	32.0	24.2
Goa	47.0	30.0	23.0	Raipur	—	32.4	25.0
Guwahati	35.0	32.2	23.0	Ranchi	30.0	28.4	22.0
Hubballi	—	25.0	22.0	Shillong	6.0	24.7	18.0
Hyderabad	—	31.2	23.7	Shimla	—	25.0	15.4
Imphal	—	29.1	22.6	Srinagar	—	27.1	7.7
Jaipur	—	36.3	23.3	Thiruvananthapuram	35.0	32.6	23.7
Kochi	53.0	27.0	23.8	Tiruchi	15.0	34.8	25.0
Kohima	—	25.6	15.6	Vijayawada	12.0	34.2	24.2
Kolkata	33.0	28.4	25.3	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	.86	.51	95	155	
Bengaluru	8	.23	.69	39	58	
Chennai	3	.99	.45	17	31	
Delhi	.28	.48	.35	151	227	
Hyderabad	.13	.13	.18	44	75	
Kolkata	.25	.17	.16	25	18	
Lucknow	8	.21	.54	55	86	
Mumbai	—	.38	109	129	75	
Pune	130	218	110	58	51	
Visakhapatnam	6	.56	.34	76	109	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Mundka, Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 227 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bidhannagar, Kolkata recorded a healthy AQI score of 34.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

16 coaches of Chennai-Mysuru-Chennai Vande Bharat train cleaned in less than 14 minutes

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Mysuru Division of the South Western Railways on October 1 launched the "14 Minutes Miracle'' initiative entailing cleaning of the Vande Bharat train in less than 14 minutes.

This innovative cleaning process by the Indian Railways was implemented for the Chennai-Mysuru-Chennai 16-coach Vande Bharat and the entire rake was cleaned in 13 minutes and 53 seconds, according to the Divisional Railway Manager Ms. Shilpi Agarwal. She said the initiative marks a substantial reduction in turnaround time and a significant enhancement of passenger experience.

Senior officials of the division were present.

Cleaning process inside Vande Bharat train at Mysuru station on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

Child trafficking: Export unit in A.P. booked

The Hindu Bureau
MACHILIPATNAM

The Andhra Pradesh police have filed a case against the management of a private aqua exports company in Krishna district for allegedly trafficking in children from other States.

The firm allegedly brought in minors and employed them. The majority of the child labourers were girls, said the officials. Following a complaint, the Pamarru police rescued the minors and shifted them to child care institutions. The investigation revealed that a few children were aged below 15, said Gudivada Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) P. Srikanth.

Tamil Nadu's senior-most DGP takes voluntary retirement

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's senior-most Director-General of Police (DGP) Braj Kishore Ravi has taken voluntary retirement from service.

The 1989-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, who has three months of service left for superannuation, is likely to join the Congress and contest in the Lok Sabha election from Bihar, his native.

In the recent empanelment of DGPs by the Union Public Service Commission for DGP/Head of Police Force, Mr. Ravi stood second in the panel of three. The first was Sanjay Arora, a 1988-batch IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, who is currently serving as the Delhi Police Commissioner.

Mr. Ravi, who is serving as the DGP, Tangedco Vigilance, will be the second officer in the rank of DGP to join politics.

Recently, Karuna Sagar, a 1991-batch IPS officer, also a native of Bihar, joined the Rashtriya Janata Dal after retiring from service. He is currently the national spokesperson of the party and is also likely to contest in the Lok Sabha election from Bihar, his native.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice No. 29/2023
Dated: 27-09-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:
Description in Brief :- Design, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and proven out of Diesel Engine driven, rotary screw, air-cooled stationary air compressor of 450 CFM at 10.0 Kg/cm2. **(Qty. 02 Set) (Tender No. L8236484)**
Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 23-10-2023**
For details log on:www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
Bengaluru
PUB/410/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice No.SBC-PCET-SMVB-BIZ-2023 Dated : 25-09-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:
Nature of work : Leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) on Round Trip Basis for a period of Six Years from SMVT Bengaluru (SMVB) to Baihata (BIZ).
Reserve Price per round trip for 15 VPH (23 tonnes CC each) + 01 Breakvan (Two units of 4 Tonnes CC each). **Reserve Price Rs. 26,57,031/-**
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 10-11-2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Comercial Manager
Bengaluru
PUB/413/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify General Public that, My Client **Mr.Niranjan Sunku** had intended to purchase property bearing Site No.489, in the layout formed by Government Electric Factory (KAVIKA) Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Limited, BBMP Katha No.489/28, PID No.42-7-489/28, situated at 1st Main Road, KHB, Bapujinagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 20 feet, in all measuring 600 Sq Ft., along with building comprises of Ground, First and Second Floors, morefully described in schedule hereunder hereinafter referred **Schedule Property,** from it's owner **Mr.C.R.Jayaram,** with the financial assistance of Punjab National Bank. It is represented by the owner that, the one of previous Title Deed pertaining to Schedule Property viz., Sale Deed 19.03.1990; executed by Sri.Subbarayulu in favor of Sri.Anthony Raj @ Francis registered as No.4558/89-90, Book-I, Vol.1325, Pages 1430146, has been lost/misplaced.
In view of the above, anybody, who have any manner of right, title, charge, interest, claim over the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for sale and creation of charge over the schedule property in favor of the said Bank may file their objections before the undersigned or with the Punjab National Bank, Bangalore within **seven days** from the date of publication, and if the undersigned or the said Bank, does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner then it shall be presumed that the said Property is free from encumbrances and obligations and Bank may proceed to grant finance.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of bearing **Site No.489,** in the layout formed by Government Electric Factory (KAVIKA) Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Limited, BBMP Katha No.489/28, PID No.42-7-489/28, situated at **1st Main Road, KHB, Bapujinagar, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 20 feet, in all measuring **600 Sq Ft.,** along with building comprises of Ground, First and Second Floors, and the same is bounded by;
East : Private Property (previously Society's Land),
West : Road,
North : Road,
South : Site No.488.
T.S.Ravi Kumar, Advocate
No.29, 3rd Temple Street,
Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560 003
e-mail:ravikumartsrk@gmail.com
Mob:8310539238
Bangalore Date: 01.10.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **MR. AMOD VIG**, Son of Mr. **L.D. VIG**, Residing at Villa 1, Sobha Malachite, Jakkur Plantation Road, B'lore-560004. Any person/s who has/have any right, claim or interest in the said property or any part thereof may notify to the undersigned along with proof of such claims/objections to such sale within **7 days** from this day, failing which my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property assuming that there are no claims, right or interest whatsoever.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Residential Villa No. **33** in **"BEECH"** type in **"PRESTIGE OZONE"**built on the Schedule B Property (Plot No. 33, forming portion of Hagadur Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring EW: 80 ft, NS: 80 ft, totally measuring 4000 sq. ft) having Ground & First Floor having total built up area of 3190 sq.ft, BBMP Khatha No.750/B/3/32, Villa No. 33 & bounded on the :
East by: Villa No. 32 in "BEECH" type of "PRESTIGE OZONE"
West by: Villa No.34 in 'CHESTNUT' type of 'PRESTIGE OZONE'
North by: Villa No.28 in 'ELM' type of 'PRESTIGE OZONE'
South by: Internal Layout Road in 'PRESTIGE OZONE'.
Sri. Harsha C. Mensinakai
Advocate,
Partner Tarka Legal
#15/1, 3rd Main, Sadashivanagar,
Banglore-80, (M) 98803 08930.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. ERS/SG/CN/2023/OT/07
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam invites E-Tender for the following works.
1) Name of the work: Signalling and Telecommunication works in connection with closing of LC No.56 at km 70/300-400 between Chalakudi and Karukutty station in Thiruvananthapuram Division.
2) Approximate cost of the work**:** ₹ **21,63,209/-; 3)** Cost of Tender Form: **Nil; 4)** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): ₹ **43,300/-; 5)** Completion Period of work: **6 (Six) Months; 6)** Tender Closing Date & Time: **23.10.2023 at 15.30 hrs; 7)** Notice board particulars where details of can be obtained : **Office of the Dy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, (Construction), Southern Railway, Ernakulam Junction;**
Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per extant rules for the supply and services by the tenderer. 2. Visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and other details.
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **G ANUSUYA**, spouse of No. 13969712 EX-TS NK (LATE) RAJASHEKARA, R/at No. 105, 6th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Mahadeshwaranagara, Bengaluru - 560 091, Karnataka, do hereby declare that **G ANUSUYA** & **ANASUYA G** both the names are one and the same person, and myself. and Date of Birth is **01 JAN 1967** vide affidavit dated 30.08.2023 sworn to before C.V. Earappa, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 58) O.S. NO. 25131/2023 Hg. 04/11/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh,
Aged about 24 years,
D/o. Anil Kumar Singh
V/S.
Mrs. Joy Rani. D.
Summons to Defendant
Mrs. Joy Rani D.
D/o Deva Kumar, Aged Major, No. 965, 31st Block, BDA Quarters, Nayandanahalli Pantharpallya, Bangalore-560039.
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,70,908.68/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight Paisa Sixty Eight Only)** apart from future interest of **10.25 % p.a.,** in **O.S. NO: 25131/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 58,** Before 57th Addl. City Civil Sessions Judge Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **4th day of November, 2023** at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **20th** day of **September, 2023.**
By order of the Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall
Bengaluru- 560 001.
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL. DISTRICT AND SESSIONS COURT AT TUMAKURU COMMERCIAL O.S. No. 24/2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LTD.,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under The Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office "Landmark," Race Course Circle, Vadodara-390007. And having its Branch Office at ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICI RAPG Division, Classic Arcade, 1st Floor, KS Rao Road, Beside City Centre, Tumkur and represented POA holder and Manager Mr. Kumar Shashi Bhushan S/o Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, age : 25 years.
...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Mr. Vinay M. and another
...DEFENDANT
Summons to the defendant by way of paper publiction
To,
Defendant :
1. Mr. VINAY M.
Aged about 40 years
Son of Hyaganahalli Rangaswamaiah.
2. Mr. MUDDARANGAIAH
Aged about 66 years Son of Ranganna Both are R/at Dasudi Village, Chikkanayakana Halli, Huliyur Hobli, Near HP Petrol Bunk, Tumakuru- 572218
Whereas the plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 & 2 of the Civil Procedure Code 1908 for recovery of **Rs. 6,10,566/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Ten Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Six only)** together with interest at the rate 18% P.A. from the date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on the **04th** day of **October 2023** at **11:00 AM** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this **22nd** day of **September, 2023.**
By the order of the court
Chief Administrative Officer District and Sessions Court at Tumakuru- 572101.
Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
T.N. Ajay, Advocate,
No. 4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East,
Bangalore-560001

Change in Maldives

India must engage with the new government in Male and deepen ties

The Maldives has chosen a new leader, replacing President Ibu Solih, who won by a landslide in 2018, with Mohamed Muizzu, the Mayor of Male and the choice of the previous ruling party, the PPM. Mr. Muizzu won Saturday's presidential run-off that followed an inconclusive first round in which no candidate crossed 50% of the vote, winning nearly 54% to Solih's 46% in this round. Mr. Solih's electoral loss is being attributed to a heavy anti-incumbency sentiment and concerns over the post-COVID-19 economy that is dependent on tourism, the rift within Solih's party, the MDP, due to a rupture in his old friendship with former President Mohamed Nasheed, as well as concerns over "sovereignty" issues, whipped up by Mr. Muizzu's PPM that is behind an "India out" campaign to oust Indian military personnel. PPM chief and former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen, the chief architect of that campaign and serving a jail term of 11 years, was openly at odds with India during his tenure. He had paved the way for a free trade agreement with China and loans for infrastructure projects that the Opposition said had led the Maldives into a "debt trap". Mr. Solih turned the Maldives's international compass, committing publicly to an "India First" policy, as New Delhi undertook many infrastructure projects, assisted the Maldives during the pandemic, and helped it during the campaign to have Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid elected President of the UN General Assembly. As a result, the Solih-Muizzu run-off was billed as an India versus China contest by commentators, who have sought to portray the result as a "setback" for India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first to congratulate President-elect Muizzu on social media. New Delhi must avoid the impression that it has favourites within the Maldivian polity. The ball is now in Mr. Muizzu's court to take up the promise of keeping India-Maldives ties close – he has not himself criticised India in the way his party has. Among his tasks would be shoring up the Maldivian economy as debt repayments come due, and taking lessons from events in the neighbourhood such as Sri Lanka's handling of its economic crisis. It remains to be seen whether he will ensure the release of Mr. Yameen, and what control the previous President will have over the new government. Mr. Muizzu will have to preside over an upcoming referendum vote, which Mr. Nasheed has pushed for, to decide whether the Maldives will revert to a parliamentary system rather than the presidential one. Given its location in the Indian Ocean, along key shipping routes, Mr. Muizzu will have to balance traditional, strategic interests with India, which is its closest and most powerful neighbour, while engaging China and the United States, that keenly watch developments there. It is important that neither Delhi nor Male view these interests through the prism of "zero sum" games, as that has led to tensions between them in the past.

Victory for the weak

The Vachathi judgment brings to a just closure the fight of a tribal people

A tribal community in Tamil Nadu that witnessed state-led brutality three decades ago has just won a battle that reinforces faith in the democratic process and the criminal justice system. This victory, on September 29 at the Madras High Court, signals a paradigm shift in Indian jurisprudence, for it is the first time that a community of 655 Adivasis defeated the collective might of the state. The people of Vachathi in Tamil Nadu's Dharmapuri district, who for generations lived in the idyllic foothills of Chiteri in the Eastern Ghats, had their lives altered on June 20, 1992. Police, forest and revenue officials – 269 in number – descended upon the village and accused the villagers of hoarding illegally felled sandalwood and allowing a conduit to smuggling. For the next three days, the villagers, women, the elderly and children included, were beaten up, their homes destroyed, wells poisoned and 18 women, including a girl, raped. All this happened under the watch of Jayalalithaa, who was the Chief Minister.

The state refused to register a case against its officials, forcing the villagers to approach the Madras High Court to seek a Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry. The CBI filed its charge sheet in 1996, and the case was tried by a Sessions Court in Dharmapuri for another 15 years. While the villagers won an unprecedented victory at the trial court in 2011 that convicted all the accused on charges ranging from rape to atrocities under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, this order was stayed by the Madras High Court on appeals by the bureaucrats. Successive State governments under the DMK and the AIADMK, chose to protect their bureaucrats. At a time when the judiciary has been at odds with the government over attempts to maintain the autonomy of the three branches of governance, the High Court's judgment upholding the trial court's conviction, warns an elected government that it cannot rule with impunity. And while the SC/ST law has often been criticised for being ineffective, Vachathi is a rare instance where it has served its purpose. This judgment is also a pivotal moment in the long battle for Adivasi rights. It will be remembered as a case where despite India's stark inequities, the convergence of an alert civil society, committed lawyers, an independent judiciary and the resolve of victims seeking justice, could still work a democratic Constitution and the judicial system to their advantage.

India's statistical performance on the global stage

Aloke Kar
is a visiting scientist at the Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata and Consultant, Asian Development Bank

Harshvardhan Singh Garhwal
is an officer of the Indian Statistical Service (2021 batch), and posted at the regional office, Jaipur, of the Field Operations Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Raghvendra Pandey
is an officer of the Indian Statistical Service (2021 batch), and is posted at the Computer Centre, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

The World Bank's compilation of Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) ranks India 67 among 174 countries in 2019. Analysis reveals both shortcomings and a commendable performance in various aspects of SPI. The importance of SPI evaluation to enhance international competitiveness has been highlighted in this article with recommendations for strategic improvements in critical pillars. There is also a need for more robust representation to the World Bank to refine SPI.

As India celebrates its election to the United Nations Statistical Commission, India's own official statistical system has come under scrutiny within the country recently. Questions have been raised about the credibility of the statistics it produces and the competence of the official statisticians. Even acclaimed statistical methods devised to generate these statistics, which were subsequently adopted by other developing countries, now face questioning. What is even more surprising is the assertion that the results of statistical exercises, such as censuses and surveys, are claimed to be of poorer quality when compared to data from administrative sources, most of which suffer from uncertain coverage and conceptual shortcomings. In general, the statistical system is now facing a trial. In this context, looking at the international rankings of national statistical systems compiled by the World Bank can provide valuable insights.

The SPI and dimensions

The World Bank compiles SPIs to assess the performance of national statistical systems across 174 countries. The SPI is based on the assessment of five dimensions of performance, commonly referred to as the "five pillars" of a national statistical system, i.e., data use; data services; data products; data sources, and data infrastructure.

India's Score 2019 (SPI Overall Score: 70.4; Pillar 1 - Data use: 80.0; Pillar 2 - Data Services: 88.0; Pillar 3 - Data Products: 60.0; Pillar 4 - Data Sources: 68.9; Pillar 5 - Data Infrastructure: 55.0) and India's Rank 2019 (SPI Overall Score: 67; Pillar 1 - Data Use: 101; Pillar 2 - Data Services: 35; Pillar 3 - Data Products: 105; Pillar 4 - Data sources: 31; Pillar 5 - Data infrastructure: 73).

The latest available scores are from 2019. According to these scores, India's overall SPI score stands at 70.4, placing it in the 67th rank (ranks are self-computed) among the 174 countries assessed. The pillar-wise scores show India's lower performance in the 'Data use' and 'Data products' pillars, with scores of 80 and 60, respectively, resulting in poor rankings of 101 (with an average rank of 116.5) and 105.

The score in the 'Data use' category depends on how different sectors of society, including the legislature, executive, civil society, academia, and international bodies, utilise the statistics produced by the system. The SPI assessment 2019 considered only data usage by international bodies. India performs well in measures assessing the comparability of estimates of child mortality, debt reporting, drinking water, and labour force participation. However, it loses 20 points due to the unavailability of comparable poverty estimates for the World Bank over the last 10 years (from 2017). This stems from a new comparability indicator introduced by the World Bank's PovcalNet for poverty estimation. It is important to note that India did produce poverty estimates within this period through the NSS Consumption Expenditure Survey.

> Even as India celebrates its election to the United Nations Statistical Commission, the country's own official statistical system is under scrutiny

An India assessment

The pillar 'Data Products' anchors the national statistical system's performance around the essential data required for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To improve upon this, India has already taken the right step by conducting a Multiple Indicator Survey and Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey in the NSS 78th round (2020-21) and 79th round (2022-23), respectively, for collection of data on SDGs.

Regarding 'Data infrastructure', India's score is 55, ranking 73 (with an average rank of 75.5). This pillar encompasses five sub-dimensions: 'Legislation and Governance', 'Standards and Methods', 'Skills', 'Partnership', and 'Finance' ('Skills' and 'Partnership' were not considered for SPI 2019). India's scores for 'Legislation and Governance' are high, given that the national statistical legislation aligns well with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Nonetheless, the overall score for 'Data infrastructure' is diminished due to moderate performance in 'Standards andmethods' and poor performance in 'Finance'.

In 'Standards and Methods', India fares well in indicators assessing the adoption of System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, COICOP (Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose), and the latest standards for the compilation of government finance statistics, monetary, and financial statistics.

However, the score in this dimension decreases due to the non-adoption of the latest standards for classifying employment status (such as International Classification of Status in Employment or ICSE-93 or North American Industry Classification System or NAICS 2012), the accounting basis for reporting central government financial data, and the non-utilisation of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). This is perplexing given that the process followed in NSS surveys closely mirrors and predates the adoption of the GSBPM. The 'Finance' category receives a low score since, according to the World Bank, India's national statistical plan lacks full funding. India excels in data services (score 88, rank 35) and data sources (score 68.9, rank 31), securing a place in the top quintile for these pillars. Under data sources, three indicators are evaluated (with the fourth indicator not considered in 2019): censuses and surveys, administrative data, and geospatial data. Among these indicators, censuses and surveys (score: 100/100 for censuses and 86.6/100 for surveys) contribute the most to India's ranking, followed by administrative data (score: 50/100), and finally, geospatial data (score: 38.9/100).

The relatively low score of administrative data is mainly due to non-fulfilment of criteria of at least 90% registration of births under the Civil Registration System (CRS). The World Bank has taken the estimate of coverage under CRS from the UN SDG monitoring database, which shows estimates of coverage as 89% for children under five and 87% for children under one . However, these estimates are actually derived from the National Family Health Survey conducted between 2019 and 2021– a period significantly affected by lockdowns following COVID-19. Conversely, the publication of the Office of the Registrar General of India), "Vital Statistics of India", cites the coverage of births under CRS for 2019 at approximately 93%, which is a much more reliable source than NFHS for estimation of coverage of CRS.

In the 'Data services' dimension, India gets full points for data releases and data services, yet avenues for improvement remain in terms of online accessibility. Enhancements in this area could be achieved by improving download options, providing more comprehensive metadata availability, and open terms for data usage. India's commendable rank of 40 in the 'Openness' score from Open Data Inventory deserves recognition.

SPI score, its relevance

Clearly, the SPI for 2019, as compiled by the World Bank, underscores India's superior performance in censuses and surveys in comparison to administrative data. A thorough examination of the SPI score is crucial to drive improvement and enhance international competitiveness. It is through identifying issues and establishing attainable goals that a substantial rise in rankings can be achieved. For instance, achieving a 20-point increase in each of the three pivotal pillars ('Data products', 'Data use', and 'Data infrastructure') would have positioned India at 34 in 2019. Moreover, proactive engagement with the World Bank to fortify the robustness of the SPI is warranted. Use of "Vital Statistics of India" in place of the NFHS for estimating the registration of births and deaths is one such case.

The views expressed are personal

A time to articulate new constitutional ideas for India

Arghya Sengupta
is the author of 'The Colonial Constitution'

The Government of India is on a mission to decolonise the country. Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker's grand Parliament building has just given way to Bimal Patel's modern reinterpretation and the name "Bharat" is being used more frequently to describe the country, challenging the monopoly of "India". So far, names and buildings are on the chopping block. But what about the Constitution? Should it change? If so, in what way? And following whose ideas?

Hind Swaraj

When we think of the Constitution of India, our mind may naturally go back to 1950 when it came into force. But constitutional ideas in India predated it. A startlingly original, indigenous account of what the Constitution would look like was presented by Mahatma Gandhi in 1908. Gandhi was steadfast in his view that without decolonising the Constitution, we may become independent but would not have swaraj. The English would be driven away and India would get itself a new democratic government, but the nature of government itself would not change. It would be "English rule without the Englishman", "not Hindustan but Englistan".

But what kind of constitution would India have? For him, a swaraj constitution ought to ideally be based on ancient village republics and not a large government in Delhi. The economy would be founded on ordinary Indians producing enough to be self-sufficient and trading the rest at local markets. India would be united not because a constitution promised rights, but because Indians themselves considered it their duty to forge a nation out of a people.

His ardent follower, Shriman Narayan Agarwal was given the task of drafting such a constitution to put Hind Swaraj into action. But Agarwal's draft of the "Gandhian Constitution for Free India", first published in 1946, was less of a legal text and more a moral code. In it, the rights to personhood, liberty and equality would be contingent on a duty to be faithful to the state.

As legal provisions, these were absurd. How would a citizen have to demonstrate loyalty? If they failed, could they be killed because the right to personhood was dependent on it? When properly thought through, the Gandhian Constitution was a recipe for untold oppression.

> These ideas have to be built not just on the existing Constitution but also with the Gandhian ideas ignored earlier as too radical

Handing it over to Ambedkar

This is why Gandhi pragmatically distanced himself from a constitution that bore his name. At that time, there was considerable momentum towards a progressive post-war constitution based on a big state with the authority to ensure law and order, separation of powers to prevent overreach and a range of fundamental rights to capture the global move towards universal human rights for all. Gandhi found such a constitution "entirely Western" but grasped its prospect of consensus instinctively.

He himself rang the death knell of the Gandhian Constitution by persuading Rajendra Prasad to appoint B.R. Ambedkar as the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution in August 1947. Ambedkar had a clear and well-articulated vision of what India's Constitution should look like. It was nothing like Gandhi's.

He believed that India needed a powerful state machinery that could ensure law and order at the margins of the country. Gandhi on the other hand believed that a large state would be too distant from the people. For Ambedkar, the state would be duty-bound to manage the economy and control industries for the common good. But for Gandhi, self-sustaining villages based on agriculture and cottage industry were the way forward. Centuries of feudalism, sectarianism and casteism would be uprooted, in Ambedkar's vision, through fundamental rights to life, liberty and equality for every individual. Gandhi thought differently: history could not be undone by a policy document such as a constitution – it needed individuals to change themselves.

Gandhi had grave disagreement with each of Ambedkar's visions but realised that they enjoyed a wide consensus across party lines. As a result, he was content in letting his ideal constitution wait its turn.

A constitutional moment?

Today, we are much like India was in 1908 when Gandhi wrote *Hind Swaraj* – a nation in flux – than in 1950, when India was a nation imbued with new-found freedom. This is why it is a good time not to draft a new constitution, but to articulate a vision of what new constitutional ideas India needs. These ideas have to be built not just on the existing Constitution worked on by B.R. Ambedkar and other members in the Constituent Assembly but also with the Gandhian ideas they ignored as too radical. This is not a suggestion to be pre-modern as many Gandhian thoughts were. Rather, it is an invitation to ask the fundamental question that Gandhi did – what kind of constitution can bring good governance to India? During the frenetic years of 1947-1950, the urgency to enact a constitution for free India meant that this question had to be given a go-by. Seventy-five years on, it is time to set that right. Unlike names and buildings, constitutions do not, and should not change overnight. But that does not mean that they should not change at all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vachathi verdict

The Vachathi verdict is also an example of the very slow pace of investigation and the justice delivery system in India.

This delay in justice should jolt the conscience of the top court.The tenacity and the never-say-die attitude of the survivors and activists in pursuing the case to its logical end are praiseworthy.

A.V. Narayanan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Years ago, *The Hindu* called the crime an example of "what brutal law enforcers and callous government officials could do to the poor and the powerless". In the end, the verdict also shows the deep faith people in India have reposed in the judiciary.

P. Victor Selvaraj,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Aadhaar linking

A unique identification of citizens looks essential for all nations, particularly India, where corruption is rampant. A very frightening case is of impersonation in voting, which adversely affects our system of democracy. Therefore, the government's intention of linking voter IDs with Aadhaar should not be opposed for the sake of criticism only.

Of course there are some genuine concerns about the use of UID in welfare measures ('FAQ' page, October 1). The two current problems, namely 'ghost and fake', appear to be manageable with proper inputs and verification of data. The lack of quality Internet and fast phone connectivity can be achieved through proper technical intervention. It is also necessary that citizens, particularly villagers and women, are intensively educated in the matter. One should not ignore the good sides of the use of Aadhaar.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

The headline of the front-page monsoon story (October 1, 2023) was erroneous. Actually, the heavy rainfall of September has not washed off India's monsoon deficit. The headline should have been "September rainfall washes away drought fears".

The opening sentence of the story headlined "October 7 deadline to exchange ₹2,000 notes" (October 1, 2023) erroneously gave the worth of ₹2,000 notes that have not found their way back into the banking system as ₹14,000 lakh crore. It should have been ₹14,000 crore.

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An ageing India needs age-responsive TB care

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is Assistant Director at REACH, a non-profit organisation working on TB for over 25 years

Ramya Ananthakrishnan
is Director at REACH

Manjot Kaur
is an independent consultant associated with REACH and authored 'TB in the Elderly: A Rapid Assessment Report

India is moving towards a future where the elderly will make up a significant proportion of society, primarily due to advances in health care and increased life expectancy. In 2011, about 9% of India's population were over the age of 60. This is expected to increase to 12.5% by 2030. The elderly represent a storehouse of wisdom, and respect for their rights and freedoms benefits society. On International Day of Older Persons (October 1), we must resolve to invest in the health of our elderly population, and pay attention to their unique needs.

This is especially true in the case of tuberculosis (TB), which affects over 25 lakh Indians every year, and kills at least 1,000 every day. India's National TB Prevalence Survey, 2021, revealed that the prevalence of TB in people over the age of 55 was 588 (per one lakh population), much higher than the overall national prevalence of 316. These findings were the starting point for a first-of-its-kind rapid assessment report on TB among the elderly, which we published earlier this year in collaboration with the National TB Elimination Programme and the U.S. Agency for International Development, highlighting TB's impact on the elderly and the need for age-specific TB guidelines.

How TB impacts the elderly

Interviews with older persons with TB revealed that their TB care journeys were fraught with challenges at every step, resulting in an overall sub-optimal experience. Symptoms of TB including cough, fatigue and weight loss are mistaken as signs of other diseases or dismissed as signs of old age. The risk of having a TB diagnosis delayed or missed altogether is higher for the elderly compared to other adults.

Once diagnosed, management of TB among the elderly is often complicated by multiple comorbidities, particularly diabetes. At an individual level, this means a higher pill count and an increased likelihood of side effects. At a health system level, this can result in irregular treatment adherence and poor outcomes, including death. Some older people with TB spoke about their lowered 'will to live', especially in the absence of social and emotional support systems.

Once diagnosed, management of TB among the elderly is often complicated by multiple comorbidities, particularly diabetes

Older people, and older women in particular, also face specific challenges in accessing health services. For instance, in rural and hilly areas, they struggle to travel to health facilities by themselves. Their access to reliable information on health is also limited – social networks inevitably shrink for the elderly. Older persons also experience infrastructure-related challenges such as lack of adequate seating. Crucially, they may not have access to high-quality nutritious food, which is critical for recovery.

All of this is augmented by a loss of economic independence. Most people over the age of 60 are no longer working; they are living off savings or they are completely dependent on families. There are some social welfare schemes for the elderly but these are limited in scope and difficult to access. Data on TB-related stigma among the elderly is sparse but we know that ageism is real and has been recognised by the World Health Organization as a cause of poor health and social isolation. Many older people we spoke to referred to their fragile mental health, accentuated by the loss of purpose and connection, loneliness from losing spouses or family, and the anxiety of not being 'useful'.

Building age-responsive care

So, how can we design and deliver TB care that is elder-friendly? First, we must move away from disease-specific, vertical care programmes to holistic care models that reduce the need for the elderly to interact with multiple providers and facilities. We must also build capacity among health professionals at all levels for an improved clinical understanding of TB in the elderly and better management of multiple morbidities. Case-finding among the elderly can be improved through effective sputum collection and transportation systems, access to mobile diagnostic vans and active case finding at geriatric OPDs, residential homes for the elderly and other institutional settings.

Technical and operational protocols that provide clear guidance on diagnosing and treating TB in the elderly – for example, sample extraction protocols, comprehensive assessment of co-morbidities and drug dosage adjustments – need to be developed.

To address socio-economic needs, we must design and roll out well-considered support protocols, with inputs from elderly people with TB. Examples include an elder-focused community care model with linkages to local caregivers; doorstep delivery of medicines; age-responsive peer support and counselling for older people and their families; special help desks for the elderly at facilities; and support with documentation to access social support schemes.

At a macro level, we must ensure rigorous gender and age-disaggregated collection and analysis of data, to identify TB trends across age groups, and to make sure that the elderly are included as a separate age category in all TB reports. An important step towards building elderly-friendly systems is strengthening collaboration within the health system.

Finally, we need a stronger research agenda focused on TB in the elderly, to better understand State-specific trends in case finding and outcomes among elderly people with TB; substance use; drug-resistance and co-morbidity patterns across geographies; uptake of TB preventive therapy in the elderly; and intersectionality with other aspects of equity such as gender, disability, class, and caste.

The farce of total prohibition

No leader in Andhra Pradesh has fulfilled the promise of prohibition

STATE OF PLAY

Sumit Bhattacharjee

Much like elsewhere in the country, politicians in Andhra Pradesh try to garner the votes of women primarily by promising welfare schemes as well as the prohibition of liquor.

Every political party that has come to power has promised in its manifesto either total or partial prohibition. However, except N.T. Rama Rao, the founder of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), no Chief Minister has dared to implement prohibition in full. It appears to be the same case with the present government.

Rao imposed the prohibition of arrack in 1994 and total prohibition, including of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), in 1995. But this policy was overturned by N. Chandrababu Naidu, his son-in-law, when he became Chief Minister in 1995. Since then, Andhra Pradesh has never seen any form of prohibition.

When Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in 2014, the TDP came back to power. In the run-up to the election, Mr. Naidu in an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party and with outside support from the Jana Sena Party promised to implement phased prohibition, but reneged on the promise after assuming power. He went back to the open auction system, and about 3,000 liquor shops were given licences, apart from bars and restaurants. Belt shops or illegal wine shops in rural belts also flourished in an organised way during his regime.

In 2019, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy too promised total prohibition on assuming office. But immediately after taking charge, Mr. Reddy said he

would only implement phased prohibition and that total prohibition would come into force by the end of his first five-year term. Four and a half years since, there is no sign of phased or total prohibition.

Now, it appears that his government will not be able to live up to its promise as it has already raised ₹10,000 crore from the market by issuing bonds in the name of Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited, a company fully owned by it. One of the conditions in the issuance of the bonds is that there will be no partial or total prohibition in the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in any part of the State.

The Opposition parties have seized this opportunity to accuse Mr. Reddy and his party of going back on a promise. However, except for Rao, it is a fact that every party has kept this promise unfulfilled. Revenue from liquor is crucial for all governments.

Mr. Reddy is also facing flak for removing the digital component from liquor sales. He has banned most of the reputed brands and companies and is facing the accusation of pushing unknown brands.

Excise officials says that there is no proof that substandard brands are being pushed at a higher cost to earn more profits and that this has caused health issues among consumers. The brands manufactured in Andhra are from maize extracts and are not molasses based, which is why they taste different, they say.

While the number of shops still continues to about 3,000 in Reddy's government, the major change in the liquor policy is that all shops are now owned by the state. Only bars are owned by private players who pay a hefty licence fee.

The YSRCP government has also formed a separate unit called the Special Enforcement Bureau, by drawing men from the police and the prohibition and excise departments, to tackle issues relating to ganja smuggling, illicitly distilled liquor, smuggling of IMFL and arrack from other States, and control the growth of belt shops. The success of the Bureau is debatable, but records show that there has been success in curbing ganja cultivation under the Parivartana programme, in checking the amount of liquor being smuggled from the neighbouring States of Odisha and Karnataka, and in the manufacture of illicitly distilled liquor. There are, however, mixed responses on the checks on belt shops.

With the election nearing, the liquor policy is expected to be a major poll plank once again. The Opposition is gearing up to question the veracity of the ownership of the breweries, brand quality, and the unfulfilled promise of imposing prohibition. Women who had voted the YSRCP to power with the hope that Mr. Reddy would bring back prohibition are unhappy. As per excise officials, the cheapest brand of 100-120 ml of liquor cost about ₹90 about four years ago and now costs ₹140-150. While Mr. Reddy has rolled out welfare measures, the issue of prohibition could be a problem for him in the elections.

Diminishing returns a factor in AIADMK's divorce from BJP

A lack of transfer of votes when in alliance with the BJP and the possibility of reduction in its support base could have forced the AIADMK's hand

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Rebecca Rose Varghese & Srinivasan Ramani

Last week, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) snapped ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance. The separation was sudden given that the AIADMK supported a series of Central government decisions such as the dilution of Article 370, the farm Bills, and the idea of simultaneous elections.

Its discomfort with the BJP's Tamil Nadu leadership apart, the AIADMK's ostensible rationale for the break up has also got to do with the fact that the alliance has so far provided only diminishing returns. **Table 1** shows the overall and contested vote shares secured by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)-led alliance and AIADMK-led alliance in the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Among the AIADMK's partners and even compared to the DMK's allies, the BJP's contested vote share of 34.2% was the lowest, which hints at a poor transfer of the AIADMK's votes to the BJP compared to others.

The Centre for the Study of Developing Society-Lokniti's post-poll study in 2021 also brought out this dissatisfaction of the AIADMK voter (**Table 2**). On being asked whether the BJP's rise will be detrimental or good for the State's social fabric, the highest share (32%) of the alliance's voters said it was "bad", while 25% said it was "good". Among the rest, 31% said it "doesn't make a difference", and 12% said they had no opinion. This could explain the jubilation of the AIADMK's cadre at the news that its leadership had decided to break relations with the BJP; they seem enthused about the return of voters who had left the party.

Another factor to consider is the implication of the results of the 2022 urban local body elections (**Table 3**). The AIADMK and the BJP did not contest these elections as an alliance. An analysis of the vote share in all the municipal corporations shows that the AIADMK's overall vote share reduced to 21% in Chennai and 25.5% in other cities. Notably, in the 2021 Assembly elections, the AIADMK combine's vote shares in the urban and semi-urban areas were 36.6% and 39.9%, respectively (**Table 4**). On the other hand, the DMK's overall vote share in the 2022 municipal elections was 42.9%, much closer to the DMK combine's vote shares in 2021 in urban and semi-urban areas (46.3% and 44.2%, respectively). The BJP's overall vote share in the 2022 urban local body elections was its highest (6.8%).

A reduction in the AIADMK's urban vote shares and the retention of the DMK's urban vote shares indicates that the BJP might have eaten into the AIADMK's urban vote shares, a factor that could have affected the party leadership's decision in breaking ties with the BJP.

The fact that the voters in the western region, a stronghold of the AIADMK, held a better perception of the BJP should also be considered in understanding the AIADMK's fear about encroachment. A region-wise vote share (**Table 5**) secured in the 2021 State elections shows that the AIADMK alliance secured 45.2% of the votes in the western region, its best performance among all the regions. As seen in Table 2, the western region is where the anti-BJP sentiment was the lowest. Only 23% of those in this region said "bad" when asked whether the BJP's rise is detrimental or good for the social fabric, the lowest among all the regions by a huge margin.

The fact that K. Annamalai, the State BJP chief, also hails from the western region and belongs to the dominant OBC community that AIADMK supremo Edappadi K. Palaniswami belongs to, is also a factor in the AIADMK's discomfort with the relative rise of the BJP as a force in Tamil Nadu.

Behind the break-up

The data for the tables are sourced from the Election Commission of India, the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

Divergent ways: AIADMK party cadres celebrate their party's decision to break away from the alliance with the BJP. R. RAGU

Table 1 | Overall and contested vote shares secured by DMK-led and AIADMK-led alliances in 2021. (*c = change in % points (pp))

Vote share %	Party	Overall vote share 2021	Overall vote share 2016 (c)*	Contested vote share 2021	Contested vote share 2016 (c)*
DMK & major allies	DMK	37.7%	+6.1	46.5%	+5.4
	INC	4.3%	-2.2	41.4%	+4.9
	Left	2.1%	+0.6	39.3%	+32.3
	VCK	1.0%	+0.2	42.4%	+35.5
	IUML	0.5%	-0.2	38.4%	+5.3
AIADMK & major allies	AIADMK	33.3%	-7.5	40.5%	-0.3
	BJP	2.6%	-0.2	34.3%	+30.7
	PMK	3.8%	-1.5	37.6%	+32.2

Table 2 | All figures in %

	Is the BJP bad or good for TN's social fabric? Bad	Good	Doesn't make a difference	No response
Type of voters				
DMK+ voters	45	13	28	14
AIADMK+ voters	32	25	31	12
AMMK+ voters	25	12	46	17
MNM+ voters	31	37	22	10
NTK voters	54	7	29	10
Other voters	43	18	28	11
Overall	40	18	29	13
Regions				
Upper North	42	16	21	21
North Central	41	19	24	16
Cauvery Delta	50	17	26	7
West	23	26	47	4
South	44	12	28	15
Down South	45	11	26	18

Table 3 | The table shows the party-wise overall vote share (%) in the 2022 urban local body elections in Tamil Nadu

Party	Overall vote share in cities other than Chennai in 2022	Overall vote share in Chennai in 2022
AIADMK	25.5	20.9
DMK	42.9	44.9
BJP	6.8	7.9

Table 4 | The urban-rural divide of vote share of AIADMK+ and DMK+ in the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections

Rural/ urban	Vote share of AIADMK+ in 2021	Vote share of DMK+ in 2021
Rural	41.5	46
Semi-rural	40.6	44
Semi-urban	39.9	44.2
Urban	36.6	46.3

Table 5 | The region-wise vote share of AIADMK+ and DMK+ in the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections

Region	Vote share of AIADMK+ in 2021	Vote share of DMK+ in 2021
Upper North	35.1	49.6
North Central	43.6	44.9
Cauvery Delta	36.9	48.4
West	45.2	41.7
South	36.4	41.8
Down South	36.9	43.5

The Centre for the Study of Developing Society-Lokniti's post-poll study was conducted from April 7 to April 20 in Tamil Nadu. The survey was conducted among 4,354 voters at 160 polling stations in 40 Assembly constituencies. Interviews of electors were conducted face-to-face at their homes after voting had taken place in their area

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 2, 1973

Kenyan customs check Chavan's brief case

New Delhi, Oct. 1: The Union Finance Minister is very unhappy over the recent incident at Nairobi airport, when the brief case of the Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, was searched by the Kenyan customs authorities. But the Ministry feels that it would be indiscreet to blow up this incident considering international interests. The Ministry of External Affairs is apparently taking the same view and has so far not reacted to the press report about the incident on the plea that it has not received any official report from its High Commission in Kenya. The incident which has caused some anguish to the Finance Ministry took place when Mr. Chavan was leaving Nairobi at the conclusion of the meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Mr. Chavan along with his official aides was waiting in the VIP lounge of the Nairobi airport for his return flight to India. The Indian High Commissioner in Kenya and the Kenyan High Commissioner for India who had gone to Kenya for a brief visit had also come to see him off. Just then the officials accompanying Mr. Chavan were accosted by a Kenyan customs official of a comparatively junior rank who wanted to examine their brief cases. The officials let him examine their brief cases. The customs official thereafter pointed to another brief case which he had not examined and was told that it belonged to the Finance Minister who was travelling on a diplomatic passport. The customs official, nevertheless, insisted on an examination of its contents.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 2, 1923

Burma elections

Rangoon, Oct. 1: The Local Government has fixed Saturday the 13th October as the last day for the receipt of nomination papers of the candidates for Burma constituencies of the Legislative Assembly. The returning officer will hold scrutiny on 20th October. A Local Government communique says that the Governor in Council notes with regret the indiscriminate allegations of corruption made from time to time in communications to the Press against Provincial and Subordinate Judicial Officers. They point out that the majority of these officers are self-sacrificing and hard working public servants.

From Page One

Gross GST revenue growth slowed to 10.2%

GST compensation cess inflows were ₹11,613 crore, including ₹881 crore collected on the import of goods.

"The government has settled ₹33,736 crore to CGST and ₹27,578 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of September, 2023 after regular settlement is ₹63,555 crore for CGST and ₹65,235 crore for the SGST," the Finance Ministry said.

Manipur highest, Bihar sees contraction

Revenues in strife-torn Manipur, which recovered from a contraction in August, recorded the highest growth among States in September, rising 47%. GST revenues in Telangana grew 33%, followed by Jammu and Kashmir (32%), Arunachal Pradesh (27%), Tamil Nadu (21%), and Karnataka (20%).

As many as 17 States recorded revenue growth below the national average of 14%, while 12 States reported 14% or higher growth. States seeing a slower uptick included Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana, Odisha, and Jharkhand, with Delhi, Meghalaya, and Assam recording the weakest growth of 2%, followed by West Bengal (3%).

Bihar was the only State to report an actual contraction in GST collections in September, with revenues down 5%. The Union Territories of Lakshadweep, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands also clocked a sharp decline in revenues, which fell 45% and 30% year-on-year, respectively. By contrast, revenues shot up 81% in the Union territory of Ladakh.

Settling pending dues

A part of the rise in September's revenues could have been spurred by businesses settling pending tax dues since the start of the GST regime in 2017-18, tax experts reckoned.

"With normal period of limitation for the financial year 2017-18 ending on September 30, some of this increased collection could be linked to businesses having settled issues with payment of taxes for the said period," said Abhishek Jain, indirect tax head and partner at KPMG. Revenues from the indirect tax may rise further with the festive season around the corner, he added.

4 held in Manipur for killing 2 Meitei students

Chief Minister Singh posted on X (formerly Twitter): "I'm pleased to share that some of the main culprits responsible for the abduction and murder of the students have been arrested from Churachandpur today. As the saying goes, one may abscond after committing the crime, but they cannot escape the long hands of the law. We are committed to ensuring maximum punishment, including capital punishment, for the heinous crime they have committed."

The four accused were taken "outside the State" by a special flight, Mr. Singh added. During the operation leading to their arrest, personnel of the Army, paramilitary forces such as the Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force, as well as the State police played a major role, he said.

Protests over the killings

The two Meitei students had disappeared in July. Photos of bodies of the two students surfaced on social media last week, leading to massive protests which left scores of people, mostly students, injured.

This was one of the 11 cases involving women and children that were handed over to CBI in July.

A team of CBI officials, led by the agency's Special Director Ajay Bhatnagar, had reached Manipur and started investigating the killings on September 27. Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey on September 29 visited the family members of the deceased.

At least 175 people have been killed since May 3 in the ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei community in Manipur.

J&J not to enforce patents on TB drug

The group's statement notes that after J&J lost its attempt to extend its monopoly in India, national TB treatment programmes from Ukraine and Belarus also requested the company to drop its secondary patents in their countries.

"The recent investigation by the South African Competition Commission undoubtedly added significant pressure on J&J, ahead of their announcement," the Access Campaign said.

Japanese drug is next target

The group added that it now wants to see Japanese pharma major Otsuka follow suit and publicly announce that it will not enforce any secondary patents in low- and middle-income countries for the other critical new TB drug Delamanid, especially as the corporation's primary patent is set to expire in 10 days in India and other countries.

Delamanid is another key drug-resistant TB drug used in combination with bedaquiline, and is particularly important for the treatment of children.

Meanwhile, at least three Indian companies – Lupin, Natco, and Macleods – have reportedly said that they are preparing to bring out generic versions of bedaquiline.

Gurdwara in Scotland flays blocking of Indian envoy

Press Trust of India
LONDON

The gurdwara in Scotland has strongly condemned the "disorderly behaviour" of Khalistani extremists who blocked a planned visit of the Indian High Commissioner in the U.K., Vikram Doraiswami, to the place of worship. It said that the local police are investigating the matter.

In a statement issued on Saturday night, the Glasgow Gurdwara Guru Granth Sahib Sikh Sabha said the "unknown" and "unruly" individuals disturbed the peace at a place of worship and attempted to disrupt the personal visit of the envoy facilitated by a member of the Scottish Parliament.

It followed the High Commission of India in London's statement that said the U.K. Foreign Office and Metropolitan Police have been apprised of the "disgraceful incident" after violent force was also used at the diplomat's car during the disruption on Friday afternoon.

"Glasgow Gurdwara strongly condemns such disorderly behaviour to disrupt the peaceful proceedings of a Sikh place of worship," it said.

India-U.S. relation now on a different plane: Jaishankar

The two nations see each other as optimal and comfortable partners, says Minister at an event in Washington attended by Indian-Americans; he also cites the human bond between the countries

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The India-U.S. relationship is at an all-time high and the two nations have moved to a position where they see each other as very desirable, optimal and comfortable partners, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said, stressing that like the Chandrayaan, bilateral ties will go to the moon and maybe even beyond.

Mr. Jaishankar made the remarks while addressing several hundred Indian-Americans who had gathered at the India House from various parts of the United States to attend the "Celebrating colours of friendship" event organised by the Embassy of India here on Saturday.

"There is one clear message today that our relationship is at an all-time high. But as they say in America, you ain't seen anything yet. So, we are going to take this relationship to a different level, to a different place," he said at the largest-ever gathering of Indian-Americans at the India House.

S. Jaishankar and Ambassador of India to the U.S. Taranjit Singh Sandhu with the Indian diaspora and others, in Washington. PTI

Mr. Jaishankar said that the success of the G-20 could not have happened without the support of the U.S.

"As the host, when things go well, the host always gets the credit. It's reasonable. But, the G-20 could not have come together if all the members of the G-20 did not work for its success," he said.

"The contribution, the support and the understanding that we got from the U.S. to make a successful G-20, I think that is something I would certainly like to recognise in public in Washington DC," Mr. Jaishankar said amidst applause from Indian-Americans.

"So, it may have been our success in a literal way, but I think it was the G-20 [nations] success. To me, it was also a success of the India-U.S. partnership... please keep giving this partnership the support it needs. And I can promise you that this relationship, like the Chandrayaan, will go to the moon, maybe even beyond," he said.

Mr. Jaishankar said that the human bond between the two countries makes the bilateral relationship unique.

He said the people remember Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the United States in 1985, Mr. Manmohan Singh's visit in 2005 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's several visits.

"But I have to say that this one (PM Modi's recent state visit) was different, it was different in optics, and if you ask me what has changed, I would say India and the U.S. earlier used to deal with each other and now they work with each other," he said.

He recalled the recent collaborative endeavours between the two countries, all starting with the letter 'I.' These initiatives include the India-Middle East Economic Corridor, I2U2 (India, Israel, the U.S., the UAE), Indo-Pacific cooperation, and the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

He said the contribution of the diaspora in building the bilateral relationship is something fantastic.

"If there is something unique about our relationship, it is the human bond that we have. The commitment of the diaspora to the India-U.S. relationship is commendable," he added. The Minister said the India of today is different from what it was earlier.

J&K govt. suspends two officials on graft charges

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government suspended two police officers on Sunday following a pending inquiry into a graft case.

According to an official communique, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sheikh Adil Mushtaq is "deemed to be under suspension with effect from 21-09-2023, the date of his arrest in a case pertaining to the Prevention of Corruption [PCA] Act, 1988".

Mr. Mushtaq is facing corruption charges. He was arrested for his alleged links with militants and was accused of taking money from militants to help them evade security forces. He was booked under various sections of the India Penal Code. The government also suspended Additional SP, Budgam, Gowhar Ahmad Khan.

"Pending an inquiry into his conduct, Gowhar Ahmad Khan, Addl. SP, Budgam, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect," the government order said.

The officer was attached with the Zonal Police Headquarters, Kashmir, during the period of suspension.

Manipur to refund farmers hit by clash with relief package

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur's Agriculture Department has come up with a crop compensation package of ₹38.06 crore as relief for the farmers affected by the ethnic conflict that broke out on May 3.

The ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki and the non-tribal Meitei communities has claimed more than 200 lives and displaced about 60,000 people. The turmoil also prevented farmers in the violence-prone areas from tending to their fields, resulting in crop loss.

Officials said the package was estimated on the basis of an independent survey conducted by Loumee Shinmee Apunba Lup, a farmers' body which estimated that paddy crop on a total of 9,719 hectares of land on the periphery of Imphal Valley could fail as farmers are afraid to go to the fields because of sporadic firing by armed miscreants from higher grounds.

The total income loss for the State in the farm sector during the violence was estimated at ₹226.5 crore, with rice accounting for 93.36% of the total agriculture, followed by livestock farming.

State Agriculture Commissioner R.K. Dinesh Singh said that the department approached the Ministry of Home Affairs for funding a crop compensation package as relief for the farmers whose livelihoods are threatened by the ethnic violence.

Over 9.2 lakh sites host cleanliness drive; PM appeals for *swachhata*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

More than 9.2 lakh sites across the country hosted a mega cleanliness drive on Sunday in which people from across the spectrum, including politicians, celebrities and students, participated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took part in this cleanliness drive along with Ankit Baiyanpuria, who is a fitness influencer.

"Today, as the nation focuses on *Swachhata* (cleanliness), Ankit Baiyanpuriya and I did the same! Beyond just cleanliness, we blended fitness and well-being also into the mix. It is all about that *Swachh* and *Swasth Bharat* (clean and healthy India) vibe," Mr Modi posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Leading by example: Narendra Modi and Ankit Baiyanpuria taking part in the cleanliness programme, in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

The post was accompanied by a video which shows Mr. Modi and Mr. Baiyanpuriya wielding brooms and cleaning and picking up trash.

Mega drive

The one-hour cleanliness drive, organised to mark Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, saw NGOs, market associations, self-help groups, faith groups, trade bodies and private sector companies, volunteering for *shramdaan* (labour) in more than 22,000 market areas, 10,000 water bodies, 7,000 bus stands/toll plazas, 1,000 *gaushalas*, 300 zoos and wildlife areas and various other locations in rural and urban India, according to officials.

The Prime Minister had in an episode of *Mann Ki Baat* last week appealed for "one hour of *shramdaan* (voluntary labour) for *swachhata*" on Sunday by all citizens as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary on October 2.

An array of Union Ministers and high-ranking officials also participated in the cleanliness drive.

Urging people to join the drive, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, posted on X: "Come, let's create a new history! At 10 AM today, let's volunteer for an hour, paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi through cleanliness."

Defence Ministry tightens rules of entitlement for disability compensation

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The move comes after the CAG asked the Ministry early this year to carry out a disability analysis

The Defence Ministry has issued new entitlement rules (ER) for grant of disability pensions to military personnel, tightening some of the provisions and introducing a new 'impairment relief' (IR) in lieu of the 'disability element' to cover lifestyle diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

The development comes after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) asked the Ministry early this year to carry out an analysis of the disability among soldiers based on its report, which said that almost 40% of officers and 18% of personnel below officer rank (PBOR) who retire every year were drawing disability pensions.

The 'Casualty Pension and Disability Compensation Awards to Armed Forces Personnel' stipulates the conditions for the award of death/disability compensation to military personnel with effect from September 21. The new rules drew flak from several veterans and veterans' organisations who alleged tweaking of the terms to cut down on disability pensions.

The new IR is defined as a monthly disability compensation, calculated as a defined percentage of the last reckonable emoluments, awarded to armed forces personnel who are retired or discharged from service voluntarily or otherwise with a disability sustained under circumstances accepted as Category B or C and assessed not less than 20%.

The All India Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association, a Chandigarh- based veterans organisation, issued a statement against the "regressive changes" made in the award of disability and death benefits admissible to disabled soldiers and widows of defence services.

Similarly, several veterans pointed out discrepancies in the new rules on social media platform X.

In the past, a Director-General of Armed Forces Medical Services in a letter to the Defence Secretary had expressed alarm at the "alarming trend" evolving with regard to claims for disability pension.

Ajay Maken appointed new treasurer of Congress

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday appointed its senior leader Ajay Maken as the new treasurer, replacing Pawan Kumar Bansal.

Mr. Maken is considered a close confidant of Rahul Gandhi and was without any post ever since he resigned as Congress general secretary in charge of Rajasthan a few months ago.

"The Congress president has appointed Ajay Maken as the treasurer of the All India Congress Committee, with immediate effect," party general secretary K.C. Venugopal said in a statement.

"The party appreciates the contribution of the outgoing treasurer Pawan Kumar Bansal," the statement further said.

Mr. Maken thanked the Congress leadership for his new assignment.

Inquest demand into Khalistan activist's death likely today

Ashis Ray
LONDON

The Sikh Federation U.K. (SFUK) plans to make a formal demand, likely on Monday, for a coroner's inquest into the death of Khalistani activist Avtar Singh Khanda in Birmingham last June, according to sources aware of the plan.

Pro-Khalistani Sikhs also plan to hold a demonstration outside the Indian High Commission in London on Monday, accusing the Indian government of involvement in the death of a pro-Khalistan activist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Canada. The protest is part of a coordinated strategy by Sikh separatists in various countries.

In seeking an investigation by a coroner, the SFUK and Khanda's family plan to highlight that the activist had allegedly "received a number of threats to his life from individuals connected to the Indian state", sources said.

Police officers blocking protestors outside the Indian High Commission in London.

Khanda is said to have been the mentor and trainer of Amritpal Singh, who briefly ran amok as a leader of the pro-Khalistan Waris Punjab De in Punjab earlier this year. Khanda was also suspected of being the face of the protest outside the Indian High Commission in London in March, which had pulled down the Indian flag.

'Launch was critical for Chandrayaan-3 success'

The launch is much more complex than even the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft, says ISRO Chairman, as the rocket has to go through the atmosphere, do the turning, do the work under severe conditions, experience stress and strain, and reach the correct orbit; he explains how the unsuccessful attempt by Chandrayaan-2 helped the space agency understand the deficiencies and come up with solutions

INTERVIEW

S. Somanath

T.S. Subramanian

The Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman, S. Somanath, attributes the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the result of the hard work of people in the space agency, rigorous reviews, and meticulous corrective action. He speaks about the learnings from Chandrayaan-2 and why a launch is the most critical event for a mission. Edited excerpts:

What were the contributing factors that led to Chandrayaan-3 mission's success: the Vikram soft-landing on the moon and the rover Pragyaan rolling down from Vikram?

There were many. The first and foremost is Chandrayaan-2's unsuccessful attempt itself. When there is an unsuccessful attempt, it gives a lot of information. The analysis of that event gave us so [many] additional insights... We understood the deficiencies very well. It was a chain of events that caused the failure. In any rocket mission, we make sure that one event does not propagate. If one event propagates and results ultimately in failure, it means the protection mechanisms you had planned are not functioning. There were at least five different events that culminated in the failure. There were windows left for the failure to propagate. Once we understood them, we looked at what more could happen in similar lines. Once they were understood, we devised a set of tests that were much more rigorous and involved than what we did earlier. All these tests were done without a single item being dropped. The tests' results were reviewed and analysed, and corrective action taken meticulously. It took almost four years of work to be done. That is why we had a long gap between Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3.

You know every success comes not out of review or checks but it is the work of the people... You should challenge them. Unless you challenge them, unless they feel secure, they will not do a great job. Complacency is dangerous. My job was to create ... awareness about themselves... You have to stir them. This is what we did.

Last time [during the Chandrayaan-2 mission], we had a problem with the software; we had problems with algorithms; we had problems with hardware; and we had problems with implementation. There was inadequacy of thrust.

These were the five causes?

Yes. All these were addressed. Whatever we could do, we did it. But things can go wrong. That question was addressed. Wherever we could bring in additional redundancies, where we could add sensors, introduce additional paths if the primary route fails... we built more and more alternatives in many scenarios. They are called software-driven redundancies.

We had extra hardware to take care of them. We loaded extra propellant to take care of dispersions. We strengthened the hardware to take care of high velocity. Yet, if nothing works and many things fail, how to land softly was the question placed in front of the designers. It was addressed. If nothing works, it should still land.

It should still land?

We said, "If nothing works, it will not land. But something should work." The minimum configuration should be tested before landing. We devised a lot of tests in the orbit itself prior to landing. Those tests were done and they were successful. There was no doubt about the landing. During those 20 minutes, we knew that Vikram [would] land on the moon because everything had been tested and everything was working well. To our surprise, none of the contingencies were invoked. No redundancies were invoked. It landed in the primary path itself. That

K. MURALI KUMAR

was the beauty of the rigour of the reviews.

Was the removal of the central, fifth engine in the lander a contributing factor to Chandrayaan-3's success? Originally, there were only four engines in Chandrayaan-2, but a fifth engine was added. This fifth, middle engine in Chandrayaan-2 did not perform well. Time and fuel were running out.

No, no. I will explain. It had nothing to do with the failure or success of the fifth engine. The fifth engine was necessary in [the lander of] Chandrayaan-2 because only that much thrust was necessary. Only the central engine was used for the final landing. If you have four engines, a fifth engine is a possibility. A central engine was necessary in Chandrayaan-2 because the thrust of that engine matched with the thrust of the mass of the craft. But when it came to Chandrayaan-3, the mass of the craft was 250 kg more. A single engine would be unable to sustain such a mass. So you have to fire two engines. When you have to fire two engines, four is a better configuration... The fifth engine was deleted in Chandrayaan-3 because the mass of the landing craft increased [and you needed two engines to fire]. The fifth engine in Chandrayaan-2 had nothing to do with the mission's failure or success.

You had chosen a bigger area on the lunar surface to land now. Was it another contributing factor to Vikram's successful landing?

Last time, we had an area of 0.5 km by 0.5 km to land. One of the biggest flaws last time was that we were trying to land exactly at a location. So the programme was trying to move the lander to that point and then land. Although it could have landed safely, it was not allowing... The software was trying to push it to that point. This was not really necessary. We could have landed in a place away. We could have been left with no time to land... We had a wider area this time. But a wider area was not possible last time because we did not have good images of the [lunar surface then]... This time, we already had the pictures from Chandrayaan-2. Using those pictures, we could choose a wider area. It was pre-planned. This time, there was no taking pictures from the previous orbit and analysing them. So Chandrayaan-2 helped Chandrayaan-3 to land safely. A wider area of 4.5 km by 2.5 km was selected this time. We were supposed to land in the middle of it. We landed within 300 metres of it.

You listed five "critical events" during the entire Chandrayaan-3 mission. They were the launch of the LVM-3 rocket and its putting Chandrayaan-3 into its initial earth-bound orbit; the propulsion module with the lander being put into trans-lunar orbit; the PM being captured by the moon's gravity; the separation of the lander from the PM; and Vikram soft-landing on the moon. In your estimate, which was the most critical of these five events?

Undoubtedly, it was the launch.

But the LVM-3 rocket had had six successful flights in a row already.

People take it for granted that the launch is just a routine affair. But the launch is much more complex than even the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft which is such a simple, upper stage of the PSLV only. It has a few more sensors and software. That is all.

But a rocket is much more complex. It should go through the atmosphere, do the turning, do the work under severe conditions, experience stress and strain, and reach the correct orbit. The number of systems [working in a rocket] is 10 times more than that of Chandrayaan-3 craft. The propulsion, algorithms, gyros, mechanisms, sensors, and so many complex events are taking place. Yet the rocket has to be successful. "It is all child's play," [people think]. The good part is that we are doing the launch multiple times. If we do it again and again, we have the confidence. That is all the result of the work of thousands of people. Chandrayaan-3 is also such a result.

I consider the launch to be the most critical event because there is no intervention in that. It is fully autonomous. There is no human intervention. From lift-off to the injection of the satellite into orbit, there is no human intervention. But the manoeuvres of Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft such as its trans-lunar injection, its being captured by the moon, Vikram landing on the moon, everything is with our intervention. All of these, we can intervene at any point. We can change the software. We can change the parameters. We can land appropriately.

All these are possible except in the launch. That is why the launch is more critical.

How do you view the Chandrayaan, Mars Orbiter, and Aditya-L1 missions?

Space has always been an inspirational domain for scientists who want to pursue a career in science, engineering, and technology. Every young boy and girl will say that he or she wants to become an astronomer, an astrophysicist, and so on.

Their career will take them to many places. They are fascinated by celestial bodies... Space technology is such an inspirational domain. We also know it is a complex domain. For countries like India, there are questions being asked even today about its relevance.

During [Vikram] Sarabhai's time, there were a lot of such questions. These types of missions [to the moon, Mars, and so on] will bring down the number of such questions.

(For full interview: bit.ly/isrochiefinterview)

Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi shuts down, cites lack of support

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

After months of uncertainty, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan here has shut down.

In a message, the mission, which ran on skeleton staff and without the presence of the envoy appointed during the Presidency of Ashraf Ghani, blamed a number of factors including lack of support from the "host government" for ending operations. "The Embassy has experienced a notable absence of crucial support from the host government, which has hindered our ability to carry out our duties effectively," a press statement stated. It cited "reduction in both personnel and resources" because of the arrival of the Taliban administration in Kabul and acknowledged that it has failed to meet "expectations in serving Afghanistan's interests".

"Given these circumstances, it is with deep regret that we have taken the difficult decision to close all operations of the mission with the exception of emergency consular services to Afghan citizens till the transfer of the custodial authority of the mission to the host country," it declared.

Meanwhile, the consulates in Hyderabad and Mumbai have not shut down and Consul-General of Afghanistan in Mumbai Zakia Wardak had earlier announced that they remain committed to serving the Afghan citizens.

Congress calls for bandh in Bastar

RAIPUR

The Congress in Chhattisgarh has called for a bandh in Bastar on Tuesday, a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Jagdalpur in the area. The party is opposing the privatisation of the Nagarnar steel plant.

Govt. employees stage stir demanding restoration of OPS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Thousands of Union and State government employees gathered at the Ramlila Maidan here on Sunday to demand the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, with several Opposition parties extending support to the protesters.

Many opposition leaders including AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, his Congress colleagues Arvinder Singh Lovely, Sandeep Dikshit and Udit Raj, and Bahujan Samaj Party MP Shyam Singh Yadav, besides farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, joined the rally.

The protesters said they were worried about their post-retirement future. "The employees who joined government service after January 1, 2004 are strongly opposing the New Pension Scheme," said Shiv Gopal Mishra, national convener and general secretary of the All India Railway Men's Federation.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal too voiced support for the OPS and said he has requested the Centre to implement it.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, नगर वृत्त (दक्षिण), जयपुर
क्रमांकः एफ. 2(के)II/148/2023-24/4578-4581 दिनांक : 21.9.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या 17 / 2023-24
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से इस वृत्त के अधीन विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निर्धारित पत्र में मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाइट www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र. सं.	निविदा संख्या	UBN No.
1.	17/2023-24	PHE2324WSRC08935

(अनिल कुमार शर्मा) अधीक्षण अभियंता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग,
नगर वृत्त (दक्षिण), जयपुर ।
DIPR/C/14930/23

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP-Portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Name of the work	Amount put to tender / EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W))/TA-1/368/2023-24	Dated: 30-09-2023
Work of Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 1.5 MLD TTP at Lalbagh (Extended Aeration followed by Filtration and UV Disinfection) for the period of 3 years.	Rs.321.35 Lakhs / Rs.5.688 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W))/TA-1/370/2023-24	Dated: 30-09-2023
Work of Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 4 MLD TTP at Cubbon Park (Membrane Technology) for the period of 3 years.	Rs.477.58 Lakhs / Rs.8.45 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W))/TA-1/372/2023-24	Dated: 30-09-2023
Work of Providing and Laying 450, 600 & 900mm dia RCC NP-3 class sewer pipeline from Ashwini Layout to Shanti Nagar Housing Society STP, coming under AEE(K&T)-1 Sub Division	Rs.516.71 Lakhs / Rs.9.14 Lakhs

The Last date for submission of completed tender documents is on **02.11.2023 upto 17:30 Hrs.** Technical tender will be opened on **04.11.2023 at 16:00 Hrs.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-East)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-N-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/488/2023-24	Dated: 30-09-2023
Work of Providing and Laying 450/600mm dia RCC NP-3 class pipe line Village Hyper Bazaar, Chandra Layout to Santhosh Gym, Chandra Layout and 4th Main Chandra Layout.	Rs. 378.81 Lakhs / Rs.6.70 Lakhs

The Last date for submission of completed tender documents is on **02.11.2023 upto 17:30 Hrs.** Technical tender will be opened on **04.11.2023 at 17:30 Hrs.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-West)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during the working hours.
DIPR/CP/BCPL/1514/2023-24

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड बेंगू
Telephone No. 01474-294110, Email ID: eepwd.begun@rediffmail.com
क्रमांक-निविदा/एफ-106/23-24/892 दिनांक: 22.09.2023
Notice Inviting Bid No:- 19/2023-24
Bids For 10 Nos Construction of Various Khula Bharmada & Community building Under MLA Head Work, Construction of Khel Stadium 1 Nos. 4 Nos. Various BT Road under DMFT Scheme YEAR 2022-23, 2023-24, 02 Package Construction of BT Road Under 5054 Rural Road Work 2023-24 Procurement are Invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM of 03.10.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppps.raj.nic.in) of the state website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1007.36 Lacs.
NIB Code: PWD2324A3346
UBN Code: PWD2324WSOB14773, PWD2324WSOB14776, PWD2324WSOB14779, PWD2324WSOB14780, PWD2324WSOB14782, PWD2324WSOB14783, PWD2324WSOB14785, PWD2324WSOB14786, PWD2324WSOB14787, PWD2324WSOB14789, PWD2324WSOB14791, PWD2324WSOB14799, PWD2324WSOB14803, PWD2324WSOB14806, PWD2324WSOB14808, PWD2324WSOB14811, PWD2324WSOB14812
(R.S. Bairwa)
Executive Engineer
PWD Dn. Begun
DIPR/C/14901/2023
E-mail: eepwd.begun@rediffmail.com

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Egmore, Chennai
Tender Notice No.
E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-4-2023-24
Dated : 27-09-2023
For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.
Name of Work : Chinna Salem - Kallakurichi New Line Work - Electrification of Station buildings, Platforms, LC gate lodges, S&T Huts, Pumping arrangements, Electrification of Camp Office, Railway Staff Quarters etc., in Chinna Salem to Kallakurichi section including power supply arrangements. **Period of Completion :** 6 Months; **Approximate Cost of Work :** ₹ 1,18,12,621.10; **Cost of Tender form :** Nil; **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :** ₹ 2,09,100/-;
Tender closing date & time : **27-10-2023 at 11:00 AM**; Tender Opening Date & Time : **27-10-2023 at 11:30 AM.**
Complete details can be seen on **www.ireps.gov.in**
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OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, BANSWARA
Mahi Colony, Udaipur Road, Banswara (Rajasthan) 327001
Email:- acewrbsw@gmail.com
No.-ACE/WR/Actt./2023/464 Dated:- 22-09-2023
SHORT TERM E-NET NIT No. 17/2023-24
Bids for the works mentioned below are invited from interested bidders upto dated 03.10.2023 till 06:00 PM

S. No.	Name of Work	Bid Cost (Lakh)
1	Construction of Sevaniya anicut across Hiran River Tehsil Sajjangarh District Banswara	885.40

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in
UBN:- WRD2324WLOB10474
Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone, Banswara
DIPR/C/14523/2023

M.P. POLICE HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
Office of The Project Engineer, Indore Division No. 1, G-13, First Floor, M.I.G. Colony, Behind Christian Eminent School, Indore (M.P.)–452008
E-mail : mpphc.indore@yahoo.in, Contact No. : 9425601536
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 07/2023-24
M.P. Police Housing & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., Indore Division No. 1, Indore, invites online e-Tenders on Portal : **http://www.mptenders.gov.in** from experienced and eligible bidders having at least 8 years experience of working in Shear Wall Monolithic Technology with aluminum formwork in India or abroad and completed at least one building (G+8 floors) in Shear Wall Monolithic Technology with aluminum formwork in last 8 years, in India or abroad for construction of multistory residential complex based on R.C.C Monolithic Shear wall Technology, using aluminum form work, including all development works at 1st Battalion, S.A.F., Indore on Percentage Rate tender basis in three envelopes system (First envelope contains EMD, Second envelope contains Technical Bid and Third envelope contains Financial/Price Bid) as per the schedule given below :

Sr. No.	Name of District/Online Tender No.	Name of The Work	Probable Amount of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender Form	Time Period for Completion (Including rainy seasons)	Serial No. of Call
1.	Indore/ 2023_ MPPHC_ 313698	Construction of (96+480) High-rise Qtrs. 1st Battalion, S.A.F., Indore (M.P.) (Based on R.C.C. Monolithic Shear wall Technology, using aluminum form work) Including internal electrification, internal water supply, internal sanitary and complete site development consisting of Cutting/ Filling of Earth, Rainwater Harvesting, R.C.C. Road Work, Under Ground R.C.C. Water tank, Horticulture, Surface Parking, Drains, Boundary Wall, Entrance Gate, Diesel Generator Sets, Street Lights with Solar System, CCTV, Elevators, Fire Fighting & Fire Alarm System, etc complete in all respects as per directions of Engineer -in- Charge for "ready to move in" condition.	₹ 116.06 Cr.	₹. 50.00 Lakhs	₹. 50000/-	24 Months	3rd call

Tender documents and other details shall be available on Portal : **http://www.mptenders.gov.in**
Important dates for tender processing are as under :-
1. **Document Download/Sale End Date : 07-Oct-2023, 05:00 PM**
2. **Bid Submission End Date : 07-Oct-2023, 05:00 PM**
3. **Bid Opening Date : 09-Oct-2023, 10:00 AM**
M.P. Madhyam/112324/2023
PROJECT ENGINEER

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड-सोजत (राज.)
क्रमांक:-अअसो/निविदा/2023-24/
निविदा सूचना संख्या : 20 वर्ष 2023-24 (अल्पकालीन)
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल की ओर से विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग /डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए्ए, ए, श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदायें प्राप्त करने हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित वेबसाइट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। अन्य विभागों में पंजीकृत केवल 'ए' एवं 'एए' श्रेणी संवेदक ही निविदा में भाग लेने के पात्र होंगे। इसके तहत पंजीयन नियमानुसार अन्य विभागों में 'ए' श्रेणी में पंजीकृत केवल 150.00 लाख से 300.00 लाख तक तथा 'एए' श्रेणी में 300 लाख से अधिक के कार्य में ही भाग लेने हेतु अधिकृत होंगे। निविदा में वर्णित कार्यों के क्रमानुसार यू.बी.एन. नंबर क्रमशः निम्नानुसार हैं।
(1) UBN No.: PWD2324WSOB15009
(सुनीत कुमार मीना)
अधिशासी अभियंता,
सा.नि.वि., खण्ड-सोजत
डी आईपीआर/सी/14530/2023

INBRIEF

Air Force helicopter makes emergency landing in Bhopal

A helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) with six persons on board made an "emergency" landing at a village in Bhopal on Sunday following a technical snag, a police official said. The pilot and the five crew members are safe, Berasia police station inspector Narendra Kulaste, who was at the spot, said on the phone. The incident took place around 8.45 a.m., he said. The helicopter made the "emergency" landing on a sugarcane field near a lake in Dungariya village, nearly 60 km from the Bhopal district headquarters, he said. The aircraft, on the way to Jhansi from Bhopal, developed a technical fault, the official said. PTI

Over 2,300 people participate in first high-altitude marathon

It was a busy morning on the streets of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on Sunday as over 2,300 people of different ages and from various regions brought the town alive by joining the first edition of a marathon here. Dignitaries joined the participants in the Tawang Marathon with Chief Minister Pema Khandu himself completing the 5-km circuit. The event, held at over 10,000 ft above mean sea level, is the first-ever high-altitude marathon in the northeastern region. Organisers said 2,463 people, including 543 women, had registered for the event with 2,343 participants comprising 511 women running the marathon. PTI

Vote in Kargil polls to convey verdict on Article 370: NC

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah, who campaigned for the Kargil hill council elections for the second day on Sunday, pitched these elections as Kargil voters' verdict on the Centre's actions on August 5, 2019, when Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union Territory (UT) from Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at a series of public meetings in Kargil and Zanskar areas of Ladakh, Mr. Abdullah wasn't too focused on '*sadak*, *bijli* and *pani*' (road, electricity, and water) issues. "Use your vote in the right way... You can send a clear message through your vote that you accept or reject the decisions of 2019," he said.

Gehlot not interested in State's development: Goyal

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday said Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was not interested in the development of the State, and said that people who were suffering have made up their mind to change the Congress government. Mr. Goyal said that the Gehlot government refused to contribute the State's share for a PM Mitra Park project for a 1,000-acre textile park in the State. Mr. Gehlot also refused to contribute in Railways projects in remote areas as well as in tribal areas of the State, he alleged. The Minister was speaking to reporters after an interaction with students of a coaching institute in Talwandi area. PTI

Erring medical colleges to face monetary penalty soon

Some welcome the National Medical Commission's unprecedented move to combat non-compliance with standards; others caution that this could lead to a hike in the fee structure

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Penalty may also include criminal proceedings for providing false information. FILE PHOTO

The latest announcement by the National Medical Commission (NMC) of introducing a monetary penalty, for the first time in India, against medical colleges that fail to comply with statutory provisions, regulations, and minimum standards set by the commission could instantly reflect in an escalation in the fee structure in private medical colleges, warn experts, stating that any monetary punishment ultimately means that the student's pockets get emptied out.

Currently, the average tuition fee for an MBBS student in a private medical college begins at ₹60 lakh (excluding other expenses like hostel, examination fee and others) and goes up to ₹1.15 crore. Additionally, a private seat for post-graduation for an in-demand subject also costs multiple crores (the going fee for MD Radiology is over ₹2 crore).

As per the latest notification, the NMC has brought in ₹1 crore as fine for defaulting medical colleges while doctors, department heads or institute heads could also face penalties of up to ₹5 lakh for submitting false documents, according to the 'Maintenance of Standards of Medical Education Regulations, 2023'.

Also, any attempt to pressure the NMC or controlling Board will incur an immediate halt of the processing of all applications/requests by the medical institution and colleges have also been asked to provide the annual disclosure report (ADR) and other documents required by boards to verify whether they are following the norms.

Experts such as Rajeev Jayadevan of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Kochi said the move was needed to uphold the standards and, in the long run, minimise disparities in quality among individual medical colleges.

Dr. Arun Kumar, former director and Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna (Bihar), noted that though strict punishment is welcome for defaulters, "Monetary penalties really doesn't serve as a punishment or deterrent for the private colleges which are in the medical education business."

RTI activist K.V. Babu said: "This doesn't sound like a good idea at all. No medical college management will pay the penalty from its own pocket and it will translate into a fee hike for students and contributions from the parents under various heads.

Meanwhile, as per the latest notification, the punishments include withholding accreditation of medical colleges, withdrawing accreditation for up to five years, halting admission to one or more courses, and even criminal proceedings for false information or documents.

No copyright claim on public service videos: Prasar Bharati officials

The broadcaster responds to Cong. leader's claim that it sent infringement notice to YouTubers

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Prasar Bharati does not make copyright claims on any public service content, which includes the parliamentary proceedings reproduced by it, said officials of the broadcaster on Sunday, following an allegation that it had sent copyright infringement notices to YouTube vloggers on parliamentary proceedings.

The issue was raised by Congress leader Gurdeep Singh Sappal, a former chief executive officer/editor of the Rajya Sabha TV, through his X handle.

"Prasar Bharti has sent notices to YouTubers invoking copyright on it. This is wrong. Parliamentary proceedings are national assets of historical value. They are not a commercial product that can be used for profiteering under the garb of copyright. In fact, any attempt to limit the access to parliamentary proceedings amounts to censorship and is an infringement of the rights of citizens (to) be informed of the happenings in the Parliament," Mr. Sappal said.

Stating that Prasar Bharati had never issued such a notice, a senior official said its public service-related contents were copyright-free. "We always strive for maximum dissemination of public service contents," said the official.

Another official said that copyright violation notices on identical content may get generated automatically, given the platform's algorithm. "However, as and when we receive information about such notices, which involve public service contents, we take measures to get the issue resolved at the earliest. If the affected person does not pursue the matter with YouTube, it may not even seek any clarification from us," said the official.

DGCA may bar pilots from using perfume to avoid false-positive alcohol tests

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The aviation regulator has called for comments from stakeholders on amending the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR). REUTERS

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) may soon bar pilots from using perfume as it has alcoholic content and could cause a breath analyser test to show positive results.

The aviation regulator has called for comments from stakeholders on amending the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), issued under provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, as regards safety regulations.

The proposed clause reads: "No crew member shall consume any drug/formulation or use any substance such as mouthwash/tooth gel/perfume or any such product which has alcoholic content. This may result into positive breath analyser test. Any crew member who is undergoing such medication shall consult the company doctor before undertaking flying assignment."

Going by CAR guidelines prescribed for all operators operating scheduled/charter/non-scheduled flights originating from India, each flight crew member and cabin crew member shall be subjected to pre-flight breath-analyser examination at first departure airport during a flight duty period.

The norm that all scheduled and non-scheduled operators shall ensure breath-analyser examination is recorded on camera and recordings preserved for six months would also be extended to State government aircraft operators.

The air safety guidelines say that even when the blood alcohol levels are zero in the body, there could be some effect of hangover, which is mainly due to congeners. A new amendment proposed is to advise aircraft operators to make available at least two serviceable fuel-cell technology-based breath-analysers capable of giving accurate digital value up to three decimal places with a memory to store at least the last 1,000 records.

No shortage of TB drugs in country, media reports are false, says Health Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

All the drugs were available with sufficient stocks, says the Union government.

Media reports of a shortage of anti-tuberculosis medicine are false, motivated and misleading, according to a statement issued by the Union government. All anti-TB drugs in the country are available with sufficient stock. The Centre proactively undertakes regular assessments to evaluate the stock positions at various levels, from central warehouses to peripheral health institutes, it said.

The statement cited information mentioned in media reports, and said they were "not only inaccurate and misleading, but also do not reflect the correct picture of the available stock of anti-TB drugs in the country".

The Union Health Ministry has explained that drug-sensitive TB was treated with two months of four drugs, available as 4FDC (Isoniazid, Rifampicin, Ethambutol and Pyrazinamide), followed by two months of three drugs available as 3FDC (Isoniazid, Rifampicin and Ethambutol).

All the drugs were available with sufficient stocks for a period ranging from six months and above. The procurement process for the drugs for the financial year 2024-25 had started, the statement said.

The treatment regimen of multidrug resistant (MDR) TB consists of usually four months of seven drugs followed by five months of four drugs. Patients on multidrug resistant TB medicines form 2.5% of the total TB-affected population and even for this group, there is no shortage of drugs, the government said.

The procurement, storage, maintenance of stock and in-time distribution of anti-TB drugs and other materials are done at the Central level under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). "In rare situations, States are required to procure a few drugs locally for a limited period using the budget under the National Health Mission so that individual patient care is not affected," the statement read.

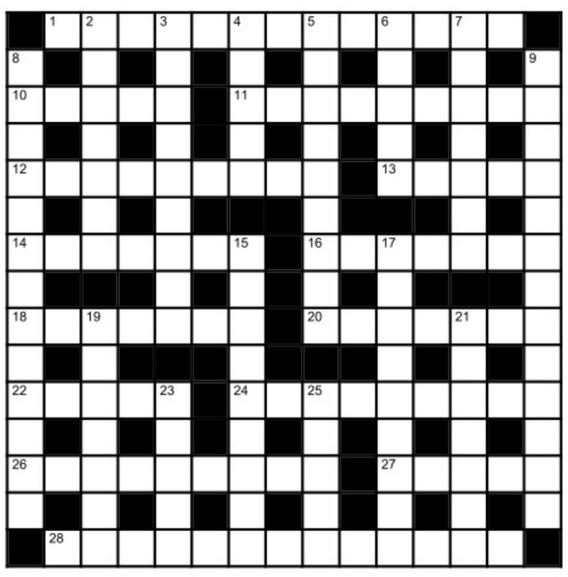
At present, over 15 months of stock of Moxifloxacin 400mg and Pyridoxine are available under NTEP. Also, the government had procured Delamanid 50mg and Clofazimine 100mg in August and supplied the same across the country.

TH CROSSWORD + 13984

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Movie direction — teams are conservative... (4,4,5)
10 ...plus protecting top secret code (5)
11 Pancake reduces figure (4,5)
12 Haggle for what I get at one, maybe (9)
13 Leaders asking votes — again in limited use (5)
14 Crazy having to criticize — they aren't hiding anything (7)
16 Perhaps I must involve private banks to get momentum (7)
18 Bank is back in terminal (7)
20 Shape tetragonal, not missing? Yes, missing (2,5)
22 Feeling, hearing animal noises made (5)
24 Soldiers try and try again (9)
26 Indian role in China providing knowledge (9)
27 Ex-PM heard the blast (5)
28 Set up cameleer's tent — you don't see much of them (5,8)

Down

2 Cross? See red finally (7)
3 See artist working on monographs (9)
4 After one, another one becomes part of a political group in the country (5)
5 One going north has ordered Tories to get specialized knowledge (9)
6 Inventor least bothered (5)
7 Warning about winding tract around the moon (4,3)
8 Grand party by the sea — the government has the power to expropriate private property for public use (7,6)
9 Let best seller become beautiful literary work (6,7)
15 Odd state, without offer it's gloomy (9)
17 What can be eaten in China — a list (9)
19 Is it correct to circle the pole to succeed? (7)
21 Bit of butter on top for security (7)
23 Scientist's vehicle papers held up (5)
25 Fish comes between tangled lines (5)

SUDOKU

1			2		9			7
				8	1		6	
		2	4	6		5		
	4	1		7	8			
		3				6		
			3	2		1	4	
		6		9	3	8		
	7		6	5				
9			8		2			6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5936 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N
M	E	N	T	B	E	N	R	M
I	A	O	E	I	G	H	T	E
X	P	A	N	S	I	O	N	A
L	I	E	R	U	L	E	S	P
E	A	R	S	D	E	N	T	I
S	T	S	T	C	E	I	S	E
H	S	T	I	L	L	N	E	S
S	D	O	D	O	N	E	Y	D
I	F	R	T	E	N	D	S	D
E	M	O	C	R	A	C	Y	E
S	C	N	I	H	E	D	R	A
M	A	T	I	C	A	G	R	E
E	D	L	M	F	S	R	H	S
G	E	M	P	H	A	S	I	S
E	T	I	T	L	E	S	L	R
V	A	E	R	D	M	E	D	I
T	E	R	R	A	N	E	A	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	9	5	2	4	1	6	8	7
6	4	1	7	8	5	9	2	3
8	2	7	3	9	6	4	1	5
9	7	6	8	3	2	1	5	4
2	3	8	5	1	4	7	6	9
5	1	4	6	7	9	2	3	8
1	8	3	4	6	7	5	9	2
4	6	2	9	5	8	3	7	1
7	5	9	1	2	3	8	4	6

FAITH

Greatness of Bhagavatham

In this Kaliyuga, it is said that the extent of devotion and dedication will be less compared to the previous three yugas. Forecasting this, sage Vyasa had classified the Vedas and created various Puranas and the Mahabharata for the sake of people. Still, Vedavyasa was not complacent.

Sage Naradha told Vedavyasa that the greatness and qualities of Lord Krishna were not elaborately written in the Mahabharata. So, the sage Vedavyasa decided to devote an exclusive work and was satisfied only after completing Srimad Bhagavatham.

Thirukkudandhai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that Srimad Bhagavatham tells more about Bhagavan – the Lord (*Bhagavatha: idham Bhagavan*). The term Bhagavan is derived from the word "*Bhagam*", which denotes six qualities: jnana, sakthi, balam, iswaryam, veeryam and tejas. Jnana – who knows all – past, present and future; Sakthi – who possesses all powers and performs even the impossible; balam – who holds the universe through His resolution; iswaryam – who has the divine faculties of omnipotence and omnipresence; veeryam – who has all valour and who never changes; and tejas – who does not seek the help of others and who has the divine lustre. Lord Narayana possessed all these six qualities and hence called Bhagavan (*Krishnasthu Bhagavan Swayam*).

BRATISLAVA

Slovakia's election winner defies European consensus on Ukraine

GETTY IMAGES

Slovakia's pro-Russian and anti-liberal election winner Robert Fico was poised on Sunday to begin coalition talks to form a government likely to join Hungary in opposing the European Union's military aid for Ukraine. The 59-year-old former prime minister's SMER-SSD party scored nearly 23% of Saturday's parliamentary poll. REUTERS

MURCIA

At least 13 killed in fire at Spanish nightclub, toll expected to rise

AP

At least 13 persons were killed in a fire in a Spanish nightclub on Sunday morning, with fears the toll could still rise as rescue workers sift through the debris. The fire appears to have broken out in a building housing the "Teatre" and "Fonda Milagros" clubs in the city of Murcia in southeastern Spain in the early morning hours. AFP

LACHIN

In first visit in 30 years, UN mission arrives in Nagorno-Karabakh

AP

A United Nations mission arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday, Azerbaijan said, after almost the entire ethnic-Armenian population fled since Baku recaptured the breakaway enclave. It marks the first time in about 30 years that the international body has gained access to the region. AFP

BENGHAZI

Libya's eastern government delays Derna reconstruction meeting

REUTERS

Libya's eastern authorities said they postponed a reconstruction conference for the flood-hit city of Derna that had been planned for October 10 but was met with international scepticism. The event was put off until November 1-2 to "offer time for the submission of effective studies and projects" for the reconstruction effort. AFP

Suicide bomber detonates a device in the Turkish capital

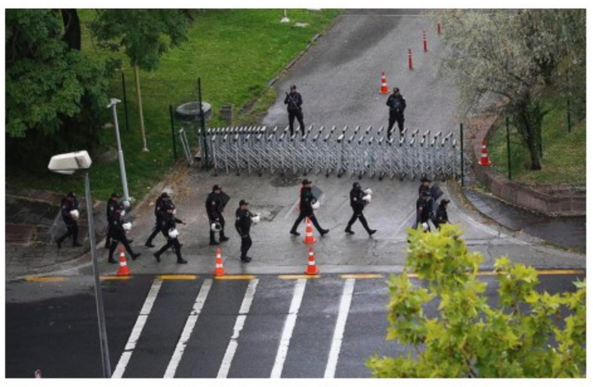
Second assailant killed in shootout, two police officers slightly injured; attack comes hours before Parliament was set to reopen, after a three-month summer recess, with an address by President

Associated Press
ANKARA

A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in the heart of the Turkish capital, Ankara, on Sunday, while a second assailant was killed in a shootout with the police, the Interior Minister said.

The attack occurred hours before Parliament was set to reopen after its three-month summer recess with an address by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Two police officers were slightly injured during the attack near an entrance to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. The attack was conducted by assailants who arrived at the scene by a light commercial vehicle.



Counter measures: Turkish security forces cordon off an area after an explosion in the country's capital of Ankara on Sunday. AP

"Our heroic police officers, through their intuition, resisted the terrorists as soon as they got out of the vehicle," Mr. Yerlikaya later told reporters. "One of them blew himself up while the other one was shot in the head before he had a chance to blow himself up."

The Minister did not say who was behind the attack and there was no immediate claim of responsibility. Kurdish and far-left militant groups as well as the Islamic State group have carried out deadly attacks throughout the country in the past.

In his speech in Parliament, Mr. Erdogan called the attack "the last stand of terrorism."

"The scoundrels who targeted the peace and security of the citizens could not achieve their goals and they never will," he said.

The President reiterated his government's aim to create a 30-km safe zone along its border with Syria to secure its southern border from attacks.

'A million' protesters rally in Warsaw against Poland's conservative govt.

Agence France-Presse
WARSAW

Around a million people gathered on Sunday at a rally in Warsaw to protest against Poland's conservative government two weeks ahead of a key general election.

Called by Opposition leader and former Premier Donald Tusk, the "Million Hearts March" sought to mobilise the electorate ahead of the vote.

"This is absolutely the biggest demonstration in Warsaw's history," Warsaw city spokeswoman Monika Beuth said.

Protesters gathered at the heart of Warsaw, many carrying Polish and European Union flags, and marched through the city, with the rally culminating with a speech by Mr. Tusk, the head of the centrist Civic Coalition bloc.

Poll bugle: Opposition leader Donald Tusk, centre, at a rally against the governing Law and Justice party in Warsaw on Sunday. AP

"We, here, are Poland," Mr. Tusk told the rally, "and we are here to win".

"Poland deserves better.. Poland deserves the best", he said, adding that "more than a million" people were taking part.

Participants from across Poland began gathering in Warsaw in the early hours to rally against the government, run by the nationalist Law and Justice party.

Kazimierz Figzal said it took him seven hours to get to the capital from southwest Poland.

"We've had enough of what we witness now – our freedom is being curbed," the 65-year-old said.

"It's high time that we return back to normal, to the rule of law, to freedom of choice and of speech," said Monika Pieleszynska, a 43-year-old clerk.

Scores of prominent political figures joined the march.

"We are ready to win, we are ready to form a democratic, European and modern government," a co-leader of the New Left party Robert Biedron told the crowd.

Ahead of the October 15 poll, the ruling party, which frequently clashes with the EU and faces accusations of undermining the rule of law, holds a comfortable lead in opinion polls, with around 35%, according to IBRiS polling.

The Civic Coalition opposition alliance has long trailed in second place, with 27%, according to IBRiS.

Law and Justice leaders are holding their own rival rally in the southern city of Katowice on Sunday.

Indonesia set to launch China-funded high-speed rail, first in Southeast Asia

Agence France-Presse
JAKARTA

Indonesia is set to launch Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway on Monday, a delayed multibillion-dollar project backed by China that will cut travel between capital Jakarta and another major city by hours.

The Chinese-made bullet train named "Whoosh" is built to take more than 600 people to and from Jakarta and the Javan city of Bandung in 45 minutes and is part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative comprising multiple countries in Asia.

President Joko Widodo has lauded the project for the fast ride it will provide between the two cities on Indonesia's most populous island Java, and he will inaugurate it on Monday.

The train can reach speeds up to 350 kmph and has cost a joint Chinese-Indonesian venture more than $7 billion to build. AP

Delayed project

The train can reach speeds up to 350 kmph and has cost a joint Chinese-Indonesian venture more than $7 billion to build.

It was set to cost less than $5 billion and be built by 2019 but delays due to construction issues and the COVID-19 pandemic saw costs spike.

Authorities have been running public trials of the new high-speed journey of 142 km before its opening.

Last-gasp deal averts U.S. govt. shutdown

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Congress passed an 11th-hour funding Bill on Saturday to keep federal agencies running for another 45 days and avert a shutdown – although the deal left out aid to war-torn Ukraine requested by President Joe Biden.

Three hours before the midnight deadline, the Senate voted to keep the lights on through mid-November.

The last-ditch "continuing resolution" was pitched by Speaker Kevin McCarthy as millions of public workers looked set to be sent home unpaid, upending government functions from military operations to food aid to policymaking.

Bangladesh bars ailing Khaleda Zia from healthcare treatment abroad

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh on Sunday blocked ailing key Opposition leader and two-time former Premier Khaleda Zia from travelling abroad for life-saving medical treatment, an official and supporters said.

Kayser Kamal, legal chief for Ms. Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), slammed the government's decision to bar the wheelchair-bound 78-year-old from leaving – due to the terms of her effective house arrest – as an act of "political vengeance".

Khaleda Zia

Bangladesh is gearing up for general elections due before the end of January, and several Western governments and rights groups have expressed concern over the political climate in a country where the ruling party dominates the legislature and runs it virtually as a rubber stamp.

Ms. Zia and her bitter rival, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, have dominated the politics of the South Asian nation of 170 million people for over four decades.

In 2008, Ms. Zia was sentenced to 17 years in prison for graft, and jailed for two years before being released under house arrest.

Ms. Zia has been hospitalised since early August with advanced liver cirrhosis, breathing difficulties and diabetes.

Her family last month wrote to the government pleading to let her fly abroad for treatment.

But Minister for Law Anisul Huq told reporters on Sunday they had rejected the plea, saying the executive order for her release from prison barred her from both taking part in politics and going abroad for medical care.

"The application can't be reconsidered," he said.

ASKUS

Vidya Bala

Q I am a 73-year-old retiree. I have invested ₹20 lakh in SCSS schemes in the joint names of self and spouse besides ₹10 lakh in bank deposits. I have also invested in mutual funds over a period of time which have grown into a corpus of ₹20 lakh giving me annualised returns of about 15%. I have no liabilities.

As my pension income is not sufficient to cover my household expenses, I am considering exiting the MF investments and moving to bank fixed deposits which will fetch me about 7.5% returns to supplement my pension income. But exiting MFs will make me liable for LTCG tax as a one-time measure and the interest on FDs will impact me with Income Tax at my slab rate of 20%.

In view of the above, I am unable to make up my mind as to the best course of action. Please advise.

ANAND VASANTRAO ARABATTI

A While we understand the tax burden, please come to terms with the fact that not much can be done to avoid tax. You can reduce it a bit. First, check with your auditor on whether the new tax regime would be beneficial for you or the old. You can switch it every year. By default, it will be the new tax regime.

Second, we do not know whether you hold equity or debt mutual funds. If you hold equity funds (going by your returns we assume you hold equity), the LTCG is taxed at 10% after deduction of ₹1 lakh of gain. You can consider moving in a phased manner every year.

So, you can consider making a phased exit. Assuming you hold equity funds (going by your returns), move a part of it to SCSS and RBI Floating Rate Savings Bonds to generate income.

Move only that part of the corpus that you think is needed to generate income for you. Allow the rest of your mutual funds, especially if it is equity, to grow.

If you happen to have debt mutual funds, then you can consider a systematic withdrawal plan (SWP) from it as a source of income. This way, you will be generating a monthly cash flow for yourself, but the tax is not on the entire amount and instead only on the gain component in each such withdrawal. SWP is superior in tax efficiency compared with interest income, but it is best done with low volatile options like debt funds.

Also, make sure if you use a SWP, you only withdraw a monthly sum that is lower than the average returns of your funds so that you don't end up drawing down the capital too soon.

Q How can I become an expert in personal finance? Not professionally but just to manage my personal finance and to make wise investments.

K. SHALIVAHAN

A The best way to learn is to start investing yourself. You can start investing small sums in simple and good products like PPF and bank deposits. You can then learn a little more about money and investing by reading. You can consider reading books such as Let's Talk Money by Monika Halan and You can be rich too: With Goal Based Investing (P.V. Subramanyam and M. Pattabiraman) to know the basics of money and financial planning.

Start using calculators that will tell you how much to save (at an assumed rate of return) to reach a specific goal in a certain time.

You can go to mutual fund websites to know the basics. Once you understand this a bit, you can then try to read about how stock markets work and how to understand a company's financials and business prospects.

Regularly read business news through business newspapers or business news websites. You can check our Prime varsity for basics on personal finance, mutual funds, and stocks.

Importantly, do not get too swayed by the 'easy money' talk that you will hear all around you, especially in social media. Listen to audios or videos of market tips but know that – like any other journey, the financial journey also takes time to travel. There will be no short cuts that can sustain.

(The writer is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Bank deposits, small savings: which is better?

While returns may be very important, it cannot be the sole criterion while choosing an investment vehicle to park one's hard-earned money; one has to look beyond the obvious

INVESTMENT CHOICE

Joydeep Sen

> In small savings, quality is sovereign and interest rates are decent.; as far as banks are concerned you have to be mindful of the lender in which you propose to invest

Deposits with banks and small savings (popularly known as Post Office Schemes) are comparable.

There is a defined rate of return and maturity date. Liquidity also is defined, in case you need the money prior to maturity. These are the simplest of financial-investment products. However, there are certain nuances, which you should be aware of while making a comparison. The basic tenet of financial investments is SLR: safety, liquidity and returns. It is important to understand the order, since many people place returns over safety and liquidity.

Safety

Both bank deposits and small savings are safe, but you have to be aware of the finer aspects. In small savings viz. Post Office Schemes and Public Provident Fund, it is uniformly safe as the entire system is run by the Union government. Most banks are safe. However, there are shades.

There are public sector banks, where the majority (more than 50%) owner is the Union government. These banks are safe. Among private sector banks, there are the leading ones. These are safe by virtue of their fundamental quality. However, within private sector, there are the relatively smaller ones. You have to put up your antennae in such situations: while a small private sector bank may be safe, do not go by the lure of the rate offered. You have to be convinced about the fundamental quality as well. Then there are co-operative banks. It is here you have to put up your antennae fully. Cases of default have happened earlier, and future defaults cannot be ruled out. We do not mean to paint all co-operative banks with the same brush; there are the better ones as well. However, regulations of co-operative banks and their NPAs i.e. bad assets are different from banks.

One short-cut for checking out banks is whether they are part of Reserve Bank of India's schedule, at https://www.rbi.org.in/commonperson/English/Scripts/BanksInIndia.aspx.

However, this is not a guarantee. Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC) was part of RBI's schedule and was subject to RBI audit, but ran into issues. If you are looking for a guarantee, then there is deposit insurance of up to ₹5 lakh per bank. You can find out whether your bank is covered under Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation at https://www.dicgc.org.in/FD_ListOfInsuredBanks.html.

Liquidity

Coming to liquidity, bank deposits are fairly uniform: you can withdraw anytime, but there would be a premature withdrawal penalty. Moreover, the interest rate is the relevant rate for the time period you have been there, and not for the initially-contracted period. In small savings, it varies from product to product. Certain products carry a lock-in period. Recurring deposit can be closed after three years, time deposit can be closed after six months, Monthly Income Account (MIS) can be closed after five years, Public Provident Fund has withdrawal rules, National Savings Certificate can be closed after five years and Kisan Vikas Patra after 2.5 years. While subscribing to any mall savings product, you have to take care of lock-in period, if any. You can check it at https://www.indiapost.gov.in/Financial/pages/content/post-office-saving-schemes.aspx.

Returns

For banks, you can check the website of the particular lender. If you have compounding options e.g. quarterly over annual, it adds to returns.

The level of interest rate indicates the risk level. For example, if the leading PSU bank offers, say, 7% and a relatively small co-operative bank offers, say, 9%, it is a message. This is not to say the bank offering 9% will default, but there is a differential risk level which you have to be mindful of. In small savings, it varies from product to product. You may check the rates at https://www.indiapost.gov.in/Financial/pages/content/post-office-saving-schemes.aspx.

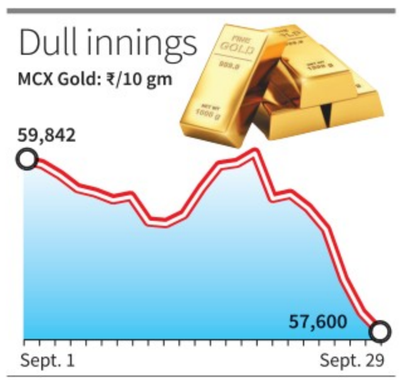
It is announced by the Centre for every quarter. On June 30, the rates for July 1 to September 30 were announced. For 1-year time deposit, the rate was raised from 6.8% to 6.9; for 5-year RD from 6.2% to 6.5%. Other rates were unchanged. On September 29, rates for the quarter October 1 to December 31 were announced; for 5-year RD, the rate has been raised to 6.7% from 6.5%.

Conclusion

In small savings, quality is sovereign and interest rates are decent. In Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, it is 8.2%, in National Savings Certificate it is 7.7%, in Kisan Vikas Patra it is 7.5%.

In banks, you may get similar or even better rates. You have to be mindful of the bank you are looking at: and if it is a leading PSU, private sector bank, or a small co-operative bank.

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)



Gold, silver lose sheen

PRECIOUSMETALS

B. Krishnakumar

Precious metals lost their sheen in September with both gold and silver closing the month on a weak note.

Comex gold and silver recorded the biggest monthly fall since February and have closed near six-month lows. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar along with the hardening of the U.S. treasury yields played a key role in keeping the prices subdued.

As a result, Comex gold closed 5.1% lower at $1,866.1 at the end of September. Comex silver saw a steeper cut of 9.5% to settle at $22.45 an ounce. Mirroring global markets, MCX gold closed on a negative note at ₹57,600, a fall of 3.7% in September. MCX silver saw a cut of 7.7% to ₹69,587 a kg.

The fall in the price of Comex gold resulted in a breach of the lower end of the prior range at $1,910-2,010. As anticipated, this resulted in weakness and the gold price headed closer to the then-mentioned target zone of $1,850-1,860. The short-term trend is weak, and the price may drop to the lower end of the target zone at $1,850.

Oversold zone

The recent fall has pushed the Comex gold price to an oversold zone and a mean-reversion move up is possible. After the completion of a brief upward move, Comex gold is likely to resume downtrend. Only a move past $1,960 would invalidate the negative outlook.

Though Comex silver too ruled weak, unlike gold, it did not breach the lower end of $22.5-25.5 range. As observed in August, a breakout from this range would set the tone for the next major move in silver. A move past $25.7 would be a sign of strength and the price could head to the upside target of $26.8-27.5. A fall below $22.3 could trigger a slide to $21-21.2.

Mirroring the global trend, MCX gold remained weak. The short-term outlook is negative, and the price may slide to the target of ₹57,150-57,300. MCX gold has to move above ₹59,960 to invalidate the weak outlook.

MCX silver is still confined to the prior range of ₹69,500-78,500. The recent price action suggests the price could break the lower end of the range and slide to the target zone of ₹64,500-65,000. A move past ₹73,750 would invalidate the negative outlook.

To summarise, the precious metals have either broken the lower end of the range or on the verge of doing so, suggesting weakness. While a short-term bounce is a possibility, the overall trend remains weak until the price crosses the invalidation level mentioned above.

(The writer is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	8.00	7.25
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.50	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.51	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	6.85	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.35	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
Federal Bank	7.30	6.80	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	7.25	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.50	6.50	7.25	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.50	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.30	7.00	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.25	7.10	6.50	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.70	6.25	5.75
SBM Bank India	7.75	6.25	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.20	6.60	6.50	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	6.75	7.05	6.50
Bank of India	7.25	6.00	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.35	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.25	6.90	6.80	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.15	6.75	6.50	6.25
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.25	6.50	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.40	6.40	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.00	6.30	6.50	6.70
Foreign Banks				
Deutsche Bank	7.75	7.00	7.75	7.50
HSBC Bank	7.25	4.00	7.00	6.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
	(In %)		
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.05	8.40-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.35-10.80	8.35-10.95	8.35-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.55-10.25	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.15
Bank of India	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.75
Canara Bank	8.65-11.25	8.65-11.25	8.55-11.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra	8.50-11.15	8.50-11.15	8.50-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	9.00-13.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-9.40
HSBC Bank	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards
South Indian Bank	9.57-10.97	9.57-10.77	9.57-11.42
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73
Karnataka Bank	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43
Federal Bank	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.15-15.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
RBL Bank	9.15-11.55	9.10-11.30	9.10-11.30
CSB Bank	11.27-13.12	11.27-13.12	11.27-13.12
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20
City Union Bank	12.25 - 14.00	12.75 - 14.50	13.25 - 14.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.55	8.50-10.75
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards
Tata Capital	8.70 onwards	8.70 onwards	8.70 onwards
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards
Repco Home Finance	9.50 onwards	9.50 onwards	9.50 onwards
Indiabulls Housing	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 onwards	8.55 onwards	8.55 onwards

Rates as on September 27 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

SHARING THE HONOURS

India holds South Korea to a draw in women's hockey

The Indian women's hockey pulled off a 1-1 draw against South Korea in the Asian Games here on Sunday. Navneet Kaur (44th min) scored the equaliser after Cho Hyejin (12th) had put South Korea ahead. Despite the draw, India tops Pool A by goal difference over Korea. The top two from each pool will qualify for the semifinals.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

South Korea stuns China to bag gold in women's team badminton

South Korea beat China 3-0 to win the women's badminton title on Sunday. An Seyoung and Kim Gaeun won their singles matches before Lee Sohee and Baek Hana beat Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan in doubles. "We were able to win the gold, thanks to the determination of our players," said Korean coach Kim Hak-kyun.

GOLDEN TRIO

Men's trap team tops the table; Kynan claims individual bronze

The Indian trap team of Prithviraj Tondaiman (119), Kynan Chenai (122) and Zoravar Singh Sandhu (120) won with an Asian Games record of 361 ahead of Kuwait (359) and China (354). In the individual final, Kynan claimed bronze behind China's Qi Ying and Kuwait's Talal Alrashidi.

ON A HIGH

Women's team traps silver as India finishes with its best-ever haul

The Indian women's trio of Rajeshwari Kumari (111), Manisha Keer (114) and Preeti Rajak (112) claimed silver with a 337, behind China (357, world record), in trap on the final day of shooting at the Asian Games on Sunday. India won 22 medals — seven gold, nine silver and six bronze — its best ever in the continental showpiece.

Sable and Toor strike gold as India has a field day

Jyothi, Sreeshankar, Ajay Kumar and Harmilan secure silver medals while Seema, Jinson and Nandini bag bronze as athletics takes the country's tally past the 50-mark

ASIAN GAMES

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

For once, no Indian could do no wrong either on the track or the field. On day two of thee athletics competition at the Asian Games saw an Indian on the podium - the men's 1500m had two - in every single event scheduled for Sunday as India reaped two gold, four silver and three bronze medals on one of the most productive days in athletics on a dramatic day.

The two golds were a contrast -- Tajinderpal Singh Toor had to dig deep to defend his shot put title and he did it off his very last throw of 20.36m while Avinash Sable, the man perennially under the microscope, led from start to finish for a new Asian Games 3000m steeplechase record of 8:19:50 that was almost eight seconds slower than his season's best and still three seconds faster than the previous one and four seconds adrift of the second-placed Ryoma Aoki of Japan.

Toor, having struggled with injuries and surgeries for a long time now, admitted he's never had the rub of luck.

"I had just four throwing sessions before coming here because of groin injury. I was under pressure after two foul throws and changed my throwing centre and managed to stay inside the area on the 3rd. When he (Mohamed Daouda Tolo of Saudi Arabia) got ahead in the 4th throw, I knew I just had to push myself for that gold. But I am used to it, won't give up," the gentle giant said.

Sable, on the other hand, had much to prove after criticism of his disappointing performance at the recent World Championships, and he did it in style. "I was determined to win gold and had decided I would keep my pace and run at that. At the World Championships that was my mistake, I followed someone else. If my strength is my pace, why should I run at someone else's? So I stuck to my plan," he explained.

The silvers came across the board - Harmilan Bains in 1500m, which she says is her main event but has participated in fewer than the 800m; Sreeshankar Murali with a massive 8.19m in his 4th attempt to finish with three 8mplus jumps to end the season; Ajay Kumar Saroj in the men's 1500m with 3:38:94 in his maiden Asiad to push defending champion and senior Jinson Johnson to third spot and of course, Jyothi Yarraji to round up the day in a dramatic 100m Hurdles that saw her first disqualified for a false start, then reinstated after protest and Chinese Yanni Wu sent out, who was then allowed to run under protest and finishing second before being DQed to allow the third-placed Jyothi to finish second.

"I felt only one thing at that moment, why have they given me a false start? It's very disappointing for something like this to happen just when I am focusing on the race, it's like being totally blind-sided. I didn't understand anything but I fought for myself and thankfully it ended well," a still shaken Jyothi said.

Also finishing on the podium was Nandini Agasara in her maiden major heptathlon with a personal best of 5712 points, just four ahead of the fancied, decorated and defending champion Swapna Burman, who was understandably inconsolable.

The medal tally for the day was rounded up by the indefatigable Seema Punia who, at 40, became the oldest Indian female athletics winner with a season's best of 58.62m in the discus throw behind the Chinese duo.

Sunday show: India's medallists on a remarkable day at Hangzhou: (Clockwise) Avinash Sable, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Jyothi Yarraji, Nandini Agasara, Seema Punia, Jinson Johnson, Ajay Kumar Saroj, Murali Sreeshankar and Harmilan Bains. The Indians won a medal in every athletics final scheduled for the day. PTI

What exactly happened in Jyothi's race?

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

The women's 100m hurdles was the final event of the day with two Chinese runners – Yuwei Lin and Yanni Wu – among the contenders for the gold. There was a false start at the beginning and to the naked eye, it was clear that Wu, in Lane 4, was the one who jumped the gun. The officials looked at the replays and, surprisingly, came and showed the 'Disqualified' card to Jyothi Yarraji, who was in the adjacent lane. The Indian national record holder protested and sought to check the replays herself. AFI authorities confirmed that after protest, the officials checked again and corrected their decision, reinstating Jyothi and DQing Wu instead.

That led to Wu protesting and seeking permission to run under protest, which she was allowed, and finished second while Jyothi finished third for bronze. However, the official final result sheet mentioned Wu as DQ and Jyothi as the silver medalist. "She protested for herself on the track and put her case very strongly. I am so, so proud of her today, specially after the disaster in the 200m in the morning," a relieved coach James Hiller told *The Hindu*. He also revealed that the same thing had happened in the final at the Asian Athletics Championships earlier this year with the same athlete. "She was DQed there also and Jyothi won gold," he said.

There was talk of India officially lodging a protest but AFI authorities confirmed there was none. "When the official result by itself says she is second, where is the need to protest? Instead, China can lodge a protest, if it wants, to challenge the result," they explained. While Wu herself appeared adamant to do so, Chinese athletics officials were seen dissuading her near the Technical Information Centre, eventually convincing and taking her away.

Indian shuttlers throw a heavy punch but fail to topple mighty China

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

Each time a Chinese shuttler goes to the backcourt and jumps up for a smash, the crowd goes 'Sha'. It simply means kill. And a figurative 'kill' is what China does in badminton at the Asian Games. The nation had won 43 gold medals in the sport across editions, and six golds in the men's team event.

It was up against India, which had no golds in badminton and no medals in the team's event. The Chinese team members were all ranked higher than the Indians in both singles and doubles. If India had to upset the continent's best in its own cauldron, it had to do without its best singles player, H.S. Prannoy, who was injured, and by winning the first three matches for a stunning gold.

At the Binjiang Gymnasium on Sunday, in front of a packed audience, India got two-thirds of the job done, but its lack of depth and China's overwhelming quality landed the host another team gold medal in the Asian Games.

So close! India, which missed the services of Prannoy, had a 2-0 lead before losing the plot. PTI

India stunned around 4000 spectators in the arena who were chanting 'Jiayou, China!', with a 2-0 lead thanks to Lakshya Sen in the singles and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty in the doubles.

World no. 2 pair Weikeng Liang and Chang Wang threw everything at them but the Indians had answers to them all and in no time, India was up 2-0. In the opening game of the next match, Kidambi Srikanth, who has not had his best year, channeled his vintage self in pushing the All England champion Li Shifeng.

However, Shifeng rode the momentum to pile on the smashes and the Indians quickly folded 9-21 to give China a point on the scoreboard. Up next, China had World No. 8 pairing taking Dhruv Kapila and Sai Pratheek, followed by Hongyang Weng facing Mithun Manjunath, ranked 33 places below.

Manjunath found out he was playing on the morning of the final after a back issue ruled Prannoy out of the final. "We didn't want to play through Prannoy's back injury. His presence would have actually added to the team's strength today," said the Indian team coach Pullela Gopichand.

The scorelines in the next two matches read 21-6, 21-15, 21-12, 21-4 in favour of China. The Chinese celebrated their seventh team gold.

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Sunday:
Athletics: Men: 200m (semifinal): Amlan (eighth overall, enters final); 1500m (final): Ajay (**Silver**), Jinson (**Bronze**); 3000m steeplechase (final): Avinash (**Gold**); Long jump (final): Sreeshankar (**Silver**), Jeswin (eighth); Shot put (final): Tajinderpal (**Gold**), Sahib (eighth).
Women: 100m hurdles (final): Jyothi (**Silver**), Nithya (seventh); 1500m (final): Harmilan (**Silver**), Deeksha (ninth); Discus (final): Seema (**Bronze**); Heptathlon: Nandini (**Bronze**), Swapna (fourth).
Badminton: Men's team (gold medal match): loses to China 2-3, **bags silver**.
Boxing: Women: 50kg (semifinal): Nikhat loses to Raksat (Tha), **bags bronze**; 57kg (quarterfinal): Parveen bt Turdibekova (Uzb); 60kg (quarterfinal): Jaismine lost to Won (PRK).
Chess: Team (round 3): Men: bt Kazakhstan; **Women:** bt Indonesia.
Golf: Fourth and final round: Women: Individual: Aditi (**Silver**), Pranavi (13), Avani (T18); **Team:** Fourth.
Men: Individual: Anirban (T12), Khalin (T27), Chawrasia (29), Shubhankar (32); **Team:** Seventh.
Hockey: Women: Pool A: drew with South Korea 1-1.
Shooting: Men's trap: Individual (final): Kynan (**bronze**), Zoravar (fifth); **Team: Gold** (Kynan, Zoravar, Prithviraj); **Women's trap:** Individual (final): Manisha (sixth); **Team: Silver** (Rajeshwari, Manisha, Preeti).
Squash: Men's singles (round-of-32): Mangaonkar bt Reyes (Phi) 3-0.
Mixed doubles: Pool A: Dipika & Harinder bt Hwayeong & Jaejin (Kor) 2-0; Dipika & Harinder bt Mehwish & Noor (Pak) 2-0.
Pool D: Anahat & Abhay bt Dalida & Pelino (Phi) 2-0; Anahat & Abhay bt Sadia & Farhan (Pak) 2-0.

Medals Table

Country	G	S	B	T
China	132	72	39	243
South Korea	30	35	60	125
Japan	29	41	42	112
India	**13**	**21**	**19**	**53**
Uzbekistan	11	12	17	40
Thailand	10	6	14	30
Chinese Taipei	9	10	14	33
Hong Kong	6	15	19	40
North Korea	5	9	5	19
Indonesia	4	3	11	18

Gold turns to silver as Aditi suffers final round meltdown

The Indian has a bogey on the 15th hole and a double bogey, when she hit it in the water on the 16th to blow away a seven-shot lead to allow Thailand's Yubol to clinch the gold

ASIAN GAMES

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

Taking it in her stride: Aditi didn't show the disappointment of losing the top spot. PTI

Aditi Ashok was rueful when she found out it was a seven-shot lead that she blew which eventually cost her a maiden gold medal at the Asian Games.

"Seven is worse," Aditi said with a wistful smile after finishing with an aggregate of 17-under 271 at the West Lake International Golf Course on Sunday.

The 25-year-old would have had flashbacks from 2021 when, in the last round of the Tokyo Olympics, she went from a silver medal position overnight to finish fourth in inclement weather conditions.

The parallels would have been there for all to see since Aditi was in pole position until the 16th hole in Hangzhou, where she struggled with her drives against the strong chilly winds coming in from the mountains in the background. In the lead after three rounds of 67, 66 and 61, even Aditi couldn't have foreseen a terrible round of 77.

Both Aditi and Lin faltered with Thailand's Arpichaya Yubol, who was in third place for much of the round, closing the gap to the top and finding an opening.

A bogey from the Indian on the 15th hole and a double bogey, when she hit it in the water on the 16th allowed Yubol to edge into the lead.

Aditi's bogey on the 15th would have surprised her after she recorded a par and two birdies on the hole in the last three rounds.

By the time Aditi corrected her driver, Yubol, who shot four under par in the last round, had done enough to claim the gold.

She simply put it, "When you hit the water, there's no way of coming back from it... That was definitely where it unravelled."

"Definitely anybody would see it as gold lost and it was my tournament to lose and I basically did that. She forced me to play well and I didn't so that's definitely a gold lost," she said.

"The way your mind works is when you are behind you are always thinking of the good stuff you can do to catch up. But when you are leading, I don't know it's good or not, but the mind looks at what can go wrong.

Not that that's what happened. I just played bad too. It definitely wasn't easy knowing that I have to play good or bad to win the tournament," she said.

Indian challengers Pranavi Urs and Avani Prashanth also had underwhelming final rounds as they finished with 4-under-284 and 3-over 291 as India slipped three positions overnight from leaders to fourth.

The Mukherjees — Ayhika and Sutirtha — who caused a flutter at Hangzhou

AG TABLE TENNIS

Amol Karhadkar

They share the same surname. They hail from the same town, not too far from Kolkata. It was their mothers' influence that drew them to the 9'x5' table.

It's no surprise that Ayhika and Sutirtha – the Mukherjees from Naihati – are best friends. And after being groomed at the same academy in their hometown, they have been reunited at the Dhanuka Dhunseri Soumyadeep Poulomi TT Academy.

India's dynamic duo beat China's Meng Chen and Yidi Wang in the quarterfinal to secure a table tennis bronze for India at the Asian Games on Saturday. The pair won the four-game contest 11-5, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9 to advance to the semifinals.

Their achievement could well go down as one of the biggest upsets not only in table tennis but in the 19th edition of the Games in its entirety, given that the Chinese pair is ranked second in the world and is the reigning world champion too.

Childhood friends

That Ayhika and Sutirtha have been childhood friends works to their advantage, no doubt. But the manner in which they have coordinated on the table is remarkable, considering it's been only a year since they started teaming up together.

While Sutirtha plays with a soft pimpled rubber, Ayhika relies on her uncanny usage of long-pimpled rubbers. It usually means Ayhika controls the game, sets up the point and Sutirtha, with her powerful forehand, finishes the key points off. This ploy helped them win the World Table Tennis Contender title in Tunisia in June, a first by an Indian women's pair.

In Hangzhou, Ayhika and Sutirtha swapped roles to befuddle their opponents. With the Indian pair leading 8-4 in the fourth - just three points away from sealing the deal - sensing the change in the Chinese approach after the next point, coach Mamata Prabhu signalled a timeout at 8-5.

"The service was in our hand so we had to capitalise on it. And I could sense that their forehand was exposed so I had to tell them to change flanks. It worked both in terms of strategy and getting them relaxed," Mamata said.

That 60-second break gave the Mukherjees a breather to reorganise their thoughts and register a sensational win.

For India's table tennis contingent, this result was a breath of fresh air after multiple near-misses.

Dynamic duo: Sutirtha and Ayhika stunned China's Meng Chen and Yidi Wang in the quarterfinal. AFP

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indian players/teams who will compete on Monday (all times IST):

Archery: Elimination matches: Recurve and Compound: Team (6.30 a.m.); Individual (11.05 a.m.).

Athletics: Men: Decathlon events: Tejaswin (6.30 a.m.); High jump (qualification): Sarvesh, Sandesh (6.40 a.m.); 800m (heats): Krishan, Afsal (7.10 a.m.); 400m hurdles (heats): Santhosh, Yashas (7.45 a.m.); 200m (final): Amlan (5.25 p.m.).

Women: 400m hurdles (heats): Vithya, Sinchal (7.45 a.m.); Pole vault (final): Pavithra (4.30 p.m.); Long jump (final) Shaili, Ancy (4.40 p.m.); 3000m steeplechase (final): Parul, Preeti (4.50 p.m.); Mixed relay (4x400m) final (6.10 p.m.).

Badminton: Singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches, 7.30 a.m.

Basketball: Women (quarterfinal): vs. North Korea (1.30 p.m.).

Chess: Team (round 4): Men and women, 12.30 p.m.

Equestrian: Eventing jumping (team final and individual final): Apurva, Vikas, Ashish (7 a.m.).

Hockey: Men: Pool A: vs. Bangladesh (1.15 p.m.).

Kabaddi: Women: Group A: vs. Chinese Taipei (1.30 p.m.).

Squash: Singles and mixed doubles matches, 10 a.m.

Table tennis: Women: Doubles (semifinal): Sutirtha & Ayhika vs. Cha & Pak (PRK), 10.15 a.m.

Abhay's performance in the final is one for the history books

K. Keerthivasan

Rising from the ashes: After a mediocre year so far, Abhay rose to the occasion when it mattered. REUTERS

Abhay Singh is a proud product of the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai. The 23-year-old made his alma mater proud by rising from the ashes to help India regain the men's team gold medal in Hangzhou with a dazzling performance in the third and final rubber against Pakistan in the summit clash.

It was an outstanding performance that will go down in history books as one of India's finest wins in the Asian Games.

However, going into the Games, Abhay wasn't in the best of form.

He fared below par in the World Cup, a mixed team competition in Chennai in June this year where India lost in the semifinals, and Abhay didn't do well in the following PSA tournaments either.

As one has seen him since a cherubic 10-year-old at ISA, Cyrus Poncha, secretary of the Squash Rackets Federation of India said Abhay has come a long way, but maintains that he still has a long way to go. "After he lost his match to Pakistan's Noor Zaman in the Pool match in the first rubber, we really pumped him up. He came back stronger, " said Poncha.

Abhay won five PSA titles in 2022. His 2023 wasn't great. However, he persisted.

According to Poncha, the High Performance Camp in Chennai a few weeks prior to the Games came as a boon to Abhay, who is ranked 69 in the world. "He really enjoyed the camp. He went to the Games refreshed," he said.

His performance in the Games – especially in the final – was a game-changer in many ways for Abhay. Poncha is of the opinion that he is on the right track to his goal of becoming a top-20 singles player in the World.

Spinners lead Saurashtra's fightback after Sai Sudharsan's innings sets it up for RoI

IRANI CUP 2023

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
RAJKOT

It's as easy as breathing to accept that, for a viewer, multi-day cricket is the most unpredictable of all forms of cricket. It lets you relax, even slouch and yawn, and suddenly stir and gasp!

At the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) stadium here on Sunday, a few impatient kids chanted 'Wiiick-ate, Wiiick-ate' even as early as half an hour after the start of first day of the Irani Cup 2023. They gamely kept at it, occasionally going off like cooker whistle.

They were adequately rewarded in the second session. With each wicket that Saurashtra took, there was glee.

For, the first session was such. Rest of India (RoI) skipper Hanuma Vihari won the toss and opted to bat, and openers Mayank Agarwal (32, 53b, 6x4) and Sai Sudharsan (72, 164b, 7x4) gathered 69 runs off 112 balls. For his six fours, Mayank square drove, cover drove, played inside-out, swept, and danced down the track, and it was all merry. That's why, when he was dismissed caught at slip off left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, he was disappointed and frustrated as he yelped and grunted on his way back.

Fresh guard: Sudharsan showed no signs of tiredness in his impressive innings for RoI after representing Surrey in the County championship just a couple of days ago. FILE PHOTO R.V. MOORTHY

Solid knock

Sudharsan was largely assured as he barely swept or stepped out of the crease. He played an uppish drive between the midwicket and mid-on fielders off Chirag Jani, cover drove Prerak Mankad, pulled off-spinner Yuvrajsinh Dodiya to the midwicket boundary, and cut Dharmendrasinh for boundaries.

He had his struggles as well. He edged for four and to no man's land, was beaten, got unsettled by unexpected bounce at times, and was drawn out of his crease for the 'keeper to miss gathering the ball and get him stumped off the spinners.

Aptly, the spinners proved to be more effective in the second session, which yielded four wickets for 79 runs off 30 overs. Three more fell in the third as left-arm spinner Parth Bhut finished the day with four for 85.

The scores:

Rest of India: Sai Sudharsan c Mankad b Parth 72, Mayank Agarwal c Mankad b Dharmendrasinh 32, Hanuma Vihari c Vyas b Parth 33, Sarfaraz Khan c Harvik b Dharmendrasinh, Yash Dhull c Jackson b Parth 10, K.S. Bharat c Jani b Parth 36, Shams Mulani lbw b Dodiya 32, Saurabh Kumar (batting) 30, Pulkit Narang c Vyas b Dodiya 12, Navdeep Saini (batting) 8; Extras (b-6, lb-6, nb-4): 16; Total (for eight wkts. in 90 overs): 298.

Fall of Wickets: 1-69, 2-138, 3-161, 4-179, 5-183, 6-242, 7-248, 8-286.

Saurashtra bowling: Unadkat 10-2-18-0, Jani 4-1-10-0, Dharmendrasinh 27-3-89-2, Mankad 2-0-10-0, Dodiya 20-2-74-2, Parth 27-2-85-4.

New Zealand

World Cup numbers

	M	W	L	T	NR
Overall	89	54	33	1	1
H2H against teams in the 2023 edition					
vs. South Africa	8	6	2	0	0
vs. Bangladesh	5	5	0	0	0
vs. India	8	5	3	0	0
vs. England	10	5	4	1*	0
vs. Sri Lanka	11	5	6	0	0
vs. Australia	11	3	8	0	0
vs. Afghanistan	2	2	0	0	0
vs. Pakistan	9	2	7	0	0
vs. Netherlands	1	1	0	0	0

** The 2019 final ended in a tie*

The New Zealand caravan

Oct. 5	vs. England	Ahmedabad	2 p.m.
Oct. 9	vs. Netherlands	Hyderabad	2 p.m.
Oct. 13	vs. Bangladesh	Chennai	2 p.m.
Oct. 18	vs. Afghanistan	Chennai	2 p.m.
Oct. 22	**vs. India**	**Dharamshala**	**2 p.m.**
Oct. 28	vs. Australia	Dharamshala	10.30 a.m.
Nov. 1	vs. South Africa	Pune	2 p.m.
Nov. 4	vs. Pakistan	Bengaluru	10.30 a.m.
Nov. 9	vs. Sri Lanka	Bengaluru	2 p.m.

Williamson and the spinners hold the key as New Zealand looks to bury the ghosts of 2019

WC COUNTDOWN

S. Dipak Ragav

In the 2015 final against Australia, the team got blown out of the water in the first hour. Four years later, against England, a bizarre boundary countback rule cost the team the title after the match and the subsequent SuperOver ended in a tie.

Come October 5, New Zealand will look to put the ghosts of the previous two final defeats behind when it kick-starts the 2023 World Cup against the defending champion.

But unlike the previous two editions - held in Australia & New Zealand (2015) and England (2019) - where the conditions played to their strengths, the pitches in India will pose a sterner test for the Black Caps. This year, the team lost a one-day series in India and Pakistan 0-3 and 1-4, respectively - indicating its struggle in sub-continental conditions.

A lot will depend on how fit skipper Kane Williamson will be after recovering from the ACL injury he picked up in the IPL earlier this year.

While the batting line-up of Will Young, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Devon Conway and Tom Latham looks capable, they are also inexperienced in these conditions.

Only Conway has had a strong run in the IPL, where he was impressive for Chennai Super Kings this year. The challenge will be for him to sustain it over 50 overs and against better and deeper bowling attacks.

ACE IN THE PACK

Kane Williamson: Apart from his leadership, the 34-year-old is easily the team's best batter, especially in sub-continent conditions, thanks to years of IPL experience.
In the first warm-up game against Pakistan, he made a fine half-century but did not field and will skip the opener as he builds up his match fitness. If he misses any more games, it could have a significant impact.

Matches against Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Chennai could prove tricky for the two-time runner-up against the solid spin attack of the South Asian teams. On the bowling front, Trent Boult leads a strong pace attack alongside Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry and Tim Southee, even though the latter is also racing against time to get fit after he suffered a broken thumb during the tour earlier this month.

But a vital cog in the attack will be left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner and his spell through the middle overs. If he comes good with his tight and accurate bowling, it could allow someone like leg-spinner Ish Sodhi to be more attacking from the other end.

Nice guys, overachievers and punching above their weight is how the cricketing world likes to describe New Zealand.

But it also does a disservice to many highly skilled players who have helped the team be consistent across formats over the last decade.

If Williamson's men can finally get their hands on the coveted trophy, it will be a fitting jewel in the careers of some of the most successful players the tiny island nation has produced.

McIlroy leads Europe to Ryder Cup glory

Associated Press
GUIDONIA MONTECELIO (ITALY)

Europe won back the the Ryder Cup on Sunday, just like it always does before its raucous crowd, with Rory McIlroy leading the way and Tommy Fleetwood delivering the decisive point to extend its dominance over the Americans on home soil.

Europe started the final day with a five-point lead. McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Viktor Hovland and Tyrrell Hatton put the Europeans on the verge of the cup, forcing the Americans to win the remaining five matches on the course.

The result: Europe 16-1/2 bt United States 11-1/2.

EDUCATIONPLUS

Learning from the Mahatma

On Gandhiji's birth anniversary, a look at how Gandhian thought continues to be spread through education

R. W. Alexander Jesudasan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Mahatma Gandhi is considered as one of the revolutionary thinkers of modern India along with Tagore and Swami Vivekananda. He was a 'practical idealist' and his philosophy of education was a pragmatic one.

To him, education encompassed "an all-round drawing out of the best in the child..." physically, mentally and spiritually.

He advocated acquisition of knowledge through work and craft at all levels and stages of education, and insisted that cultural aspects be given importance. According to him, education should be designed based on cognitive skills and capabilities. He emphasised basic knowledge embedded in the principles of sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, self-help and helping parents at homes.

In education

Many often lament that education has not been able to give our youth the right direction or the kind of all-round development necessary to make then self-dependent. The remedy to this comes from Gandhian thought.

Over the years, many higher education institutions have been offering various programmes based on Gandhian thought. Delhi University, for example, offers a mandatory value-added course Integrating Mind Body and Heart (MBH), which is handled through discussions, debates and discourse rather than relying on textbooks alone.

In Tamil Nadu, the Gandhigram Rural Institute (a Deemed-to-be-University) has been implementing Nai Talim, the Gandhian educational philosophy, through its academic programmes on Rural Development, Rural Economics, Cooperation, Development Administration, Rural Sociology, Rural Industries, Agriculture, Rural Health, and Sanitation. This concept has been given a fillip by the National Education Policy 2020.

The institute also offers programmes such as "Gandhi in Everyday Life" and "Shanti Sena (Peace Brigade), a non-violent leadership training.

Periodical workshops, trainings, seminars, and symposia are organised to expose participants to various Gandhian alternatives. Government officials and elected leaders are given training in Panchayat Raj, and the Rural Technology centres provide training to people in various village/cottage industries.

Besides providing research exposure at M.Phil., Ph.D. and D.Litt. levels, some institutions also publish journals pertaining to research and extension education on Gandhian philosophy.

Other methods of disseminating Gandhian themes include mobile exhibitions, cultural rallies, games and campaigns on ecological and communal issues. Essay-writing, drawing and elocution competitions are also organised to sensitise students to Gandhian values.

To him, education encompassed "an all-round drawing out of the best in the child..." physically, mentally and spiritually.

Outcome

Das and Nair (2020) conducted a study to understand the learning outcomes of three courses offered to students: Gandhi and the Contemporary World (generic elective), Reading Gandhi (concurrent course) and Gandhian Thoughts (Humanities elective) in two universities.

They found that students gained an understanding of Gandhiji as an individual, his thought, and actions; they were critically engaged in Gandhian thoughts and actions; they avoided hagiography of Gandhian principles, and decided to analyse assumptions about Gandhiji and reflected upon radical critiques.

Gujarat Vidyapith has been conducting a four-month Diploma course on Gandhian Non-Niolence exclusively for international students.

Since its inception in 2011, nearly 70 students from 16 countries including the U.S., Mexico, France, Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, South Sudan, and Indonesia have participated.

A student from Brazil was so impressed with Nai Talim that he requested for some *charkhas* so that he could teach students there how to make khadi. A girl from Ghana conducted a workshop in her country on how Gandhian philosophy of non-violence can be applied to solve domestic issues.

An Argentinian participant, after undergoing practical exposure on organic farming, started a small project in his home town to convert kitchen waste into organic manure.

A German social worker felt that the current migrant crisis in her country could be addressed through Gandhian principles of non-violence.

The primary thrust of these educational programmes is to expose learners, particularly youngsters, to Gandhiji's thoughts and ideas and their application in the contemporary world.

The writer is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science (Deemed to be University), Chennai.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Anjum Chopra Sports Scholarship
Ten scholarships offered annually by PUSH Sports.
Eligibility: Open to Indian women cricketers between 14 and 25 years who play for state teams.
Rewards: ₹1 lakh per annum and benefits
Application: Online
Deadline: Round the year
www.b4s.in/edge/ACSO8

Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships
Aims to support meritorious students to continue their studies, become successful professionals.
Eligibility: Students who are resident Indian citizens enrolled in the first year of a full-time UG degree in any stream at a recognised Indian institute and have passed Class 12 with minimum 60% marks. Annual family income should be up to ₹ 1,500,000 (preference will be given to those students whose family income is less than ₹250,000). Aptitude test is mandatory.
Rewards: Up to ₹2 lakh
Application: Online
Deadline: October 15
www.b4s.in/edge/RFS8

DXC Progressing Minds Scholarship Programme
Aims to support the educational/sports expenses of students from underserved groups.
Eligibility: Girls and transgender students pursuing graduation (any year) in STEM-related fields who have got minimum 60% marks in their previous semester exams. Female sportspersons between 13 and 25 years who have represented the state/ country at the state/ national/ international level in the last 2-3 years. For students, annual family income must be less than or equal to ₹400,000 and, for sportspersons, ₹500,000.
Rewards: ₹50,000 for STEM students and ₹125,000 for sportspersons
Application: Online
Deadline: Octber 31
www.b4s.in/edge/DXCS2

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

Luna is Blasters' saviour again

ISL-10

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

It's tough to read Adrian Luna. His quick reflexes and lightning moves often leave rival defences in a tizzy.

Kerala Blasters' 'Mr. Dependable'came good again on Sunday night as the Kochi outfit defeated Jamshedpur FC by a lone goal at the Nehru Stadium here.

The wily midfielder found the target in the 74th minute which gave the team three points for a total of six from two matches. The goal-move started with Japanese winger Daisuke Sakai sending a long ball to the centre of the box. Following this, Luna and Dimitrios Diamantakos had a nice one-two which opened up the defence and Luna quickly bulged the net.

Victory dance: Luna has found the net in both matches. H. VIBHU

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Global Swim Centre and Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre emerge champions

Global Swim Centre and Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre were crowned the men's and women's water polo champions respectively at the NRJ State senior aquatic championship here on Sunday. S. Sohan and Prachetha R. Rao were adjudged the best players.

The results (finals): Men: Global Swim Centre bt Malleshwaram Swimming Club 14-4; **women:** BAC bt NAC 12-6.

Best player awards: Men: S. Sohan (Malleshwaram); **Women:** Prachetha R. Rao (BAC).

Nikhil and Lal net two each as FC Agniputhra runs riot

Nikhil Raj and Lal Nunzuma scored a brace each as FC Agniputhra thrashed Young Challengers FC 5-1 in the BDFA Super Division Football league here on Sunday.

The results: FC Agniputhra 5 ((Suk Raj Subba 27, Nikhil Raj Murugeshkumar 40, 52, Lal Nunzama 43, 69) bt Young Challengers FC 1 (Murali Joseph 34); MEG & Center FC 3 (Sarth Narayanan 6, Shaik Muzeeb 33, Ayush 64) bt MFAR Students Union FC 1 (Pratik Swami 16).

Sohan and Prachetha.

Big win for Dynamic Sporting

Dynamic Sporting defeated FCBU 5-1 in an under-11 category match of the Karnataka Youth Premier League football here on Sunday.

Other results: U-17: FC Mangalore bt Majaz FC 3-1; **U-11:** Alchemy IFA bt BFC Academy 3-0; FX FC drew with Titan FA 4-4; Coolulu FC drew with SCB 3-3.

BCYA-A and Shlok HC reign supreme

BCYA-A and Shlok HC emerged the men's and women's champions respectively at the President's Cup five-a-side hockey tournament that concluded here on Sunday.

The results (finals): Men: BCYA-A 8 (S. Sandeep 1, 9, 15, 18, 19, Raju 8, 11, 13) bt Shlok 5 (Prajwal 5, 9, Nanaiah 8, Deepak Manjunath 17, Royal Aiyanna 19).

Women: Shlok 9 (S. Yuktha 1, 19, P.A. Pavithra 3, 6, 7, 10, Anju Shaju 8, Leelavathy 17, 18) bt SASA-A 0; U-17 girls: FAPS 7 (Meher Kaur Mehta 1, 3, 7, 19, Andrea Commerford 4, 17, Kshama Tiwari 15) bt Bishop Cotton 4 (Vyshnavi Arul 8, 12, 14, 18).

Fluent win for Rajiv Sethu

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Rajiv Sethu, Vignesh Goud and Lani Zena Fernandez took unassailable leads across various categories with fluent victories as the fourth and penultimate round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2023 concluded at the Madras International Circuit, here on Sunday.

Provisional results (all 6 laps unless mentioned, winners only): National Championship – Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (8 laps): Rajiv Sethu (RACR Castrol Power 1 Ultimate) (15mins, 04.518secs).

Pro-Stock 165cc Open: S. Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha1) (12:00.450).

Novice (Stock 165cc): Vignesh Goud (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) (13:17.927).

Girls (Stock 165cc, 5 laps): Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power 1 Ultimate) (11:12.128).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R): Race-1 (8 laps): Kavin Quintal (15:06.431).

LIVE TELECAST

Asian Games: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. onwards

Men's Cricket World Cup: (Warm-up fixtures): Star Sports 1, 2, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Asian Games: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

It's Synthesis vs. Sea The Sun in the Coromandel Gromor Deccan Derby

PUNE: Synthesis and Sea The Sun should fight out the finish of the Coromandel Gromor Deccan Derby (Gr. I), the stellar attraction of the Hyderabad Monsoon races scheduled to be run here on Monday (Oct. 2). There will be no false rails.

1 BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 12.30 p.m.: 1. Angel Tesoro (9) Antony Raj S 60, 2. Plethora (8) Md. Ekram Alam 60, 3. Mireya (6) Tograllu 59.5, 4. Doe A Deer (5) Shivansh 59, 5. First Class (3) Akshay Kumar 55.5, 6. Precious Gift (10) P. Sai Kumar 54, 7. Star Cruise (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 54, 8. Ok Boss (2) Ajay Kumar 53, 9. Muaser (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51.5 and 10. Creative Force (4) Surya Prakash 51.

1. ANGEL TESORO, 2. FIRST CLASS, 3. MUASER

2 MYSORE RACE CLUB CUP (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.00: 1. Exclusive Spark (7) Mohit Singh 60, 2. Australia (1) Suraj Narredu 59.5, 3. Beauty Flame (3) Santosh Raj 59.5, 4. Happy Soul (4) Surya Prakash 59, 5. Shadow Of The Moon (5) Mukesh Kumar 59, 6. Carnival Lady (9) B. Nikhil 58.5, 7. Vintage Brut (11) P. Sai Kumar 58.5, 8. Life Is Good (6) Md. Ismail 57, 9. Blazing Gun (8) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 10. Sucker Punch (10) Shivansh 53.5 and 11. My Way Or Highway (2) G. Naresh 52.

1. AUSTRALIA, 2. BLAZING GUN, 3. LIFE IS GOOD

3 ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.30: 1. Hugh Capet (8) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. Siddharth (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Kings Best (3) Suraj Narredu 55, 4. Nucleus (7) Mohit Singh 54.5, 5. Reigning Beauty (6) S. Saqlain 53.5, 6. Adbhut (5) Afroz Khan 53, 7. Worcester (2) Vivek G 51 and 8. Hard To Toss (1) G. Naresh 50.5.

1. SIDDHARTH, 2. KING'S BEST, 3. NUCLEUS

4 MADRAS RACE CLUB CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.00: 1. Winning Streak (3) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Just Incredible (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 59, 3. True Icon (2) A. Imran Khan 58, 4. Enabling (6) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 5. Acrobat (7) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 54.5, 6. Only My Way (5) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5, 7. Superstellar (8) C. Umesh 52 and Princess Daka (4) Abhay Singh 51.5.

1. ENABLING, 2. ACROBAT, 3. SUPERSTELLAR

5 BANGALORE TURF CLUB (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45(Cat. III), 2.35: 1. Aerial Combat (8) Tograllu 60, 2. Exclusive Luck (3) Md. Ismail 60, 3. Salisbury (2) Mukesh Kumar 60, 4. Blast In Class (4) Ajay Kumar 59, 5. Tripurari (1) Akshay Kumar 59, 6. Fatuma (10) Ashad Asbar 56, 7. Royal Pal (7) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 8. Wandring Warrior (6) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 54, 9. Special Effort (5) P. Sai Kumar 53 and 10. Sorry Darling (9) Vivek G 51.5.

1. BLAST IN CLASS, 2. TRIPURARI, 3. SORRY DARLING

6 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (1,200m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3.10: 1. New Look (1) Shivansh 61, 2. Briar Ridge (15) Santosh Raj 58.5, 3. Mozelle (16) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 4. Amyra (10) Afroz Khan 57, 5. Beauty Blaze (9) Mohit Singh 56.5, 6. Shazam (7) B. Nikhil 56, 7. Unsung Hero (2) Neeraj 56, 8. Carlisle (14) Md. Ekram Alam 55, 9. Stunning Force (12) Antony Raj S 54.5, 10. Ashoka (3) Suraj Narredu 54, 11. Faith (11) Abhay Singh 53.5, 12. Miss Little Angel (13) Vivek G 53.5, 13. Nugget (8) P.S. Chouhan 53.5, 14. Maximum Glamour (6) G. Naresh 52.5, 15. Bangor On Dee (4) S. Saqlain 52 and 16. Mark My Day (5) Surya Prakash 51.5.

1. MOZELLE, 2. ASHOKA, 3. BEAUTY BLAZE

7 TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA CUP (1,400m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 3.45: 1. Watch My Stride (1) Shivansh 63, 2. Star Glory (4) Suraj Narredu 62.5, 3. Kingston (8) R.S. Jodha 59.5, 4. Ashwa Morocco (7) Akshay Kumar 58, 5. Top Secret (3) Mohit Singh 58, 6. Royal Grace (2) Afroz Khan 55.5, 7. Candy Girl (6) Md. Ekram Alam 52.5 and 8. Exotic Dancer (5) G. Naresh 50.

1. ASHWA MOROCCO, 2. ROYAL GRACE, 3. WATCH MY STRIDE

8 COROMANDEL GROMOR DECCAN DERBY (Gr. 1) (2,000m) (Terms), 3-y-o only, 4.20: 1. Galahad (5) Akshay Kumar 56, 2. High Command (7) Vivek G 56, 3. Sea The Sun (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 4. Stravinsky (8) Antony Raj S 56, 5. Synthesis (4) Suraj Narredu 56, 6. Terenga (10) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 7. Truth (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 8. Livermore (11) S. Saqlain 54.5, 9. N R I Doublepower (9) Neeraj 54.5, 10. Something Royal (2) C. Umesh 54.5 and 11. Windsor (3) Afroz Khan 54.5.

1. SYNTHESIS, 2. SEA THE SUN, 3. TRUTH

9 DELHI RACE CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5.05: 1. Forever Bond (6) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. Golden Inzio (1) Kuldeep Singh 60, 3. Good Tidings (2) Akshay Kumar 60, 4. Moon Walk (12) Shivansh 60, 5. Riffa (10) Mukesh Kumar 60, 6. Solar Princess (8) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 60, 7. Canterbury (5) S. Saqlain 58, 8. Blue Brigade (3) Surya Prakash 57, 9. Protocol (9) Md. Ismail 56.5, 10. Nishaan (7) A.A. Vikrant 55, 11. Dream Jewel (4) P. Sai Kumar 54.5 and 12. It's My Life (11) B. Nikhil 52.5.

1. GOOD TIDINGS, 2. FOREVER BOND, 3. CANTERBURY

Day's Best: **MOZELLE**

Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3; (ii) 4, 5 & 6; (iii) 7, 8 & 9.

Tanala: All races.

Gretsy lives up to her billing in feature event

HYDERABAD: Mr. S. Pathy-owned filly Gretsy, ridden by Akshay Kumar, scored a hat-trick by winning the G. Sudhakar Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Sunday's (Oct. 1) races. The winner is trained by M.R. Chauhan. The Pathy-Chauhan duo scored a grand treble on the day.

1. NEARCO PLATE (DIV. I): MAGNUM (Afroz Khan) 1, Deccan Spirit (Akshay Kumar) 2, Toffee (Abhay Singh) 3 and Bold Beauty (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Not run: Magical Power. 1/2, 2 and 6-1/2. 1m, 14.10s. ₹13 (w), 10, 11 and 13 (p). SHP: 22, THP: 36, SHW: 10 and 17, FP: 25, Q: 20, Tanala: 109. Favourite: Magnum. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

2. NEARCO PLATE (DIV. II): MAVERICK (A. Imran Khan) 1, Great Giver (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Assured Success (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 3 and Thunder Knight (Neeraj) 4. 5-1/4, 2-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 14.06s. ₹19 (w), 11, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 53, SHW: 11 and 17, FP: 67, Q: 40, Tanala: 106. Favourite: Maverick. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

3. NEARCO PLATE (DIV. III): SUBHA (Afroz Khan) 1, Minecraft (Ashad Asbar) 2, Silver Act (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Eminency (Surya Prakash) 4. 3-1/4, 3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 14.46s. ₹40 (w), 15, 18 and 12 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 43, SHW: 25 and 12, FP: 289, Q: 99, Tanala: 728. Favourite: Minecraft. Owners: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

4. TOTARAM'S CUP (DIV. II): ANGELITA (Ajay Kumar) 1, Thanks (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, Ice Berry (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Lady Danger (B. Nikhil) 4. 3/4, Neck and Shd. 1m, 27.80s. ₹141 (w), 39, 14 and 19 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 71, SHW: 60 and 17, FP: 971, Q: 230, Tanala: 6,423. Favourite: Thanks. Owner: Mr. Syed Abdul Subhan. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

5. G. SUDHAKAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: GRETSY (Akshay Kumar) 1, Kenaf (Afroz Khan) 2, Star Medal (R.S. Jodha) 3 and She Can (Antony Raj) 4. 1-1/2, 1 and Neck. 1m, 13.88s. ₹17 (w), 10, 10 and 32 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 47, SHW: 12 and 29, FP; 57, Q: 34, Tanala: 511. Favourite: Gretsy. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

6. NARAYANPET PLATE: LIFE'S LIVING (Shivansh) 1, Happy Go Lucky (Ashad Asbar) 2, Precious (Antony Raj) 3 and Alexina (Santosh Raj) 4. 1-1/4, Neck and 3-1/2. 1m, 7.26s. ₹62 (w), 19, 16 and 13 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 56, SHW: 47 and 27, FP: 329, Q: 172, Tanala: 551. Favourite: Precious. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

7. TOTARAM'S CUP (DIV. I): WALLOP AND GALLOP (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Despang (S. Saqlain) 2, Best Buddy (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Its On (B. Nikhil) 4. Not run: N R I Sport. Shd, 3 and 1-1/4. 1m, 26.98s. ₹44 (w), 16, 13 and 13 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 44, SHW: 21 and 15, FP: 105, Q: 44, Tanala: 448. Favourite: Despang. Owner: Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.

8. ASIFABAD PLATE: BURGUNDY BLACK (Vivek G) 1, Honourable Lady (Mohit Singh) 2, Starwalt (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 3 and London Bell (Md. Ekram Alam0 4. Neck, 12-1/2 and 3-1/4. 1m, 28.14s. ₹74 (w), 21, 21 and 50 (p). SHP: 80, THP: 88, SHW: 46 and 40, FP: 719, Q: 351, Tanala: 7,305. Favourite: Pal Cha. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Magan Singh.

9. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE: KENNA (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 1, Fara (Ashad Asbar) 2, Colt Pistol (Vivek G) 3 and Only The Brave (Santosh Raj) 4. Not run: Lights On. 2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 14.29s. ₹30 (w), 15, 14 and 29 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 78, SHW: 18 and 19, FP: 159, Q: 98, Tanala: 958. Favourite: Calisson. Owner: Mr. T. Amarender Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹2,381 (64 tkts.) & 30%: 544 (120 tkts.); (ii) 70%: 17,733 (32 tkts.) & 30%: 1,842 (132 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 3,625 (43 tkts.), (ii) 18, 646 (5 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 94 (239 tkts.), (ii) 2,366 (16 tkts.), (iii) 2,743 (25 tkts.).